



Shojo Beat Manga

# love★com

TM



Story & Art by

**Aya Nakahara**

3





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## The Story So Far . . .

First-year high school student Riso Koizumi is 5'7". She and Atsushi Ôtoni (5'1") are considered their class's lopsided comedy duo, and have so much in common that a "love fortune" machine tells them they're 100% compatible—but in fact all they do is bicker. Right now, they're competing over who can hook up with someone first, and Ôtoni's ex-girlfriend shows up and says that she has something to tell him! It looks like they might get back together, but it turns out that she has a new boyfriend, and all she wanted to tell Ôtoni was that his height wasn't the reason she had dumped him.

Meanwhile, Riso's childhood friend Haruka suddenly appears and starts going after her! He constantly puts down Ôtoni, who's always by Riso's side, and Riso for some reason finds herself defending him. When Haruka asks her if she's in love with Ôtoni, Riso gets very flustered...!

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* volumes 1 and 2, available at bookstores everywhere!!



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# LOVELY COMPLEX





I  
LOVE YOU.  
GO OUT  
WITH ME.

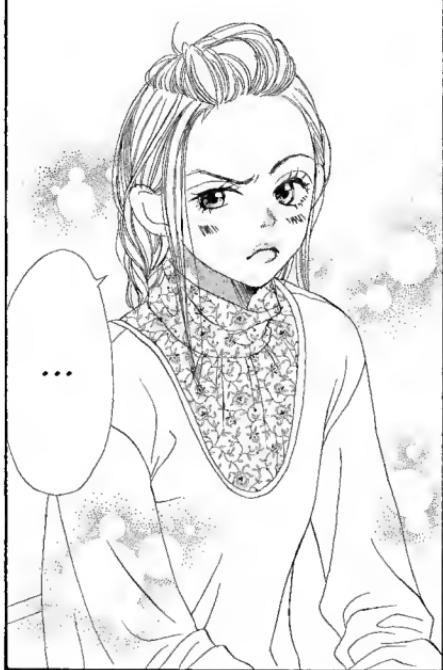
RISA.

YOU  
SEE...

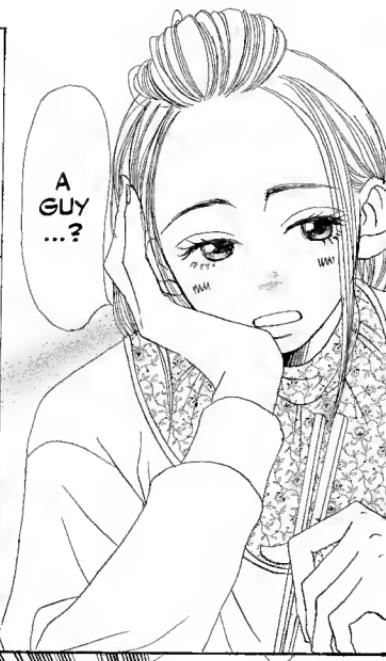
KOIZUMI.

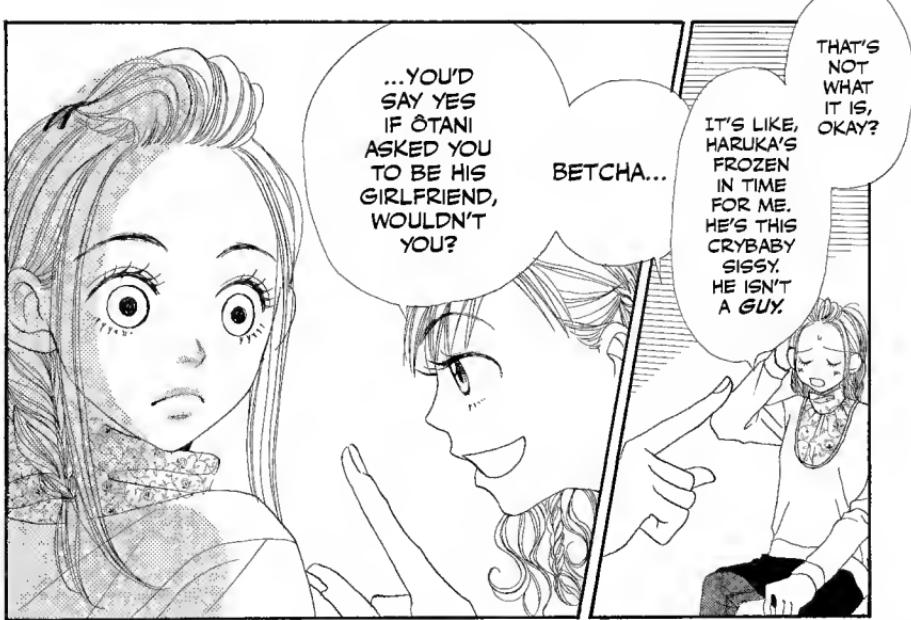
...HAVING  
YOU BE MY  
GIRLFRIEND IS  
THE CRUCIAL  
PART OF MY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GAME PLAN.  
IT'S BEEN MY  
DREAM SINCE  
WAY BACK.

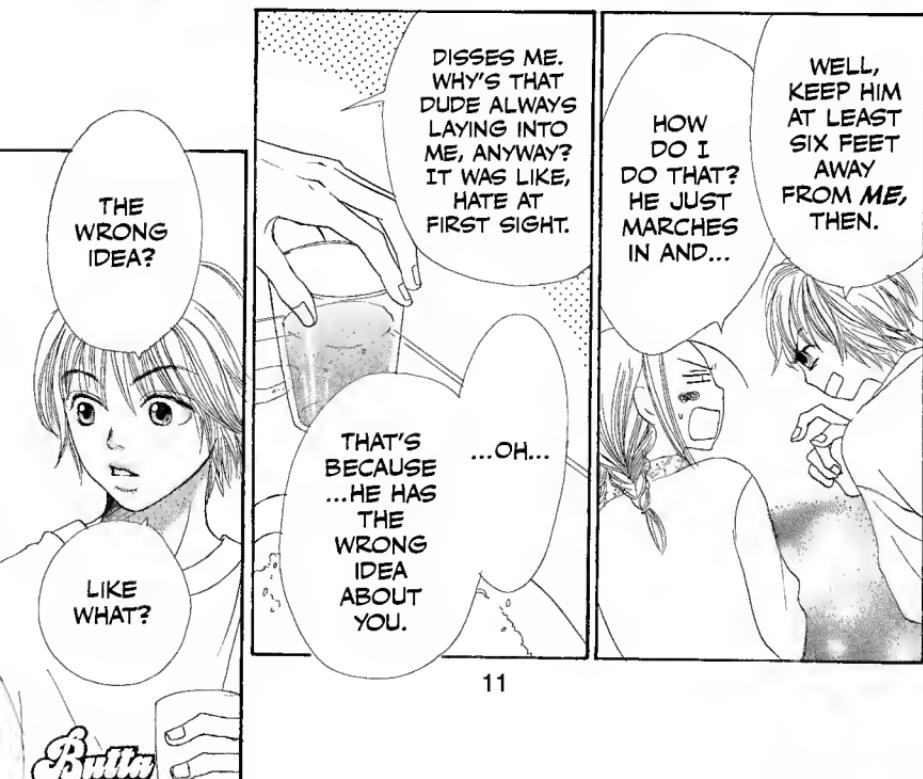
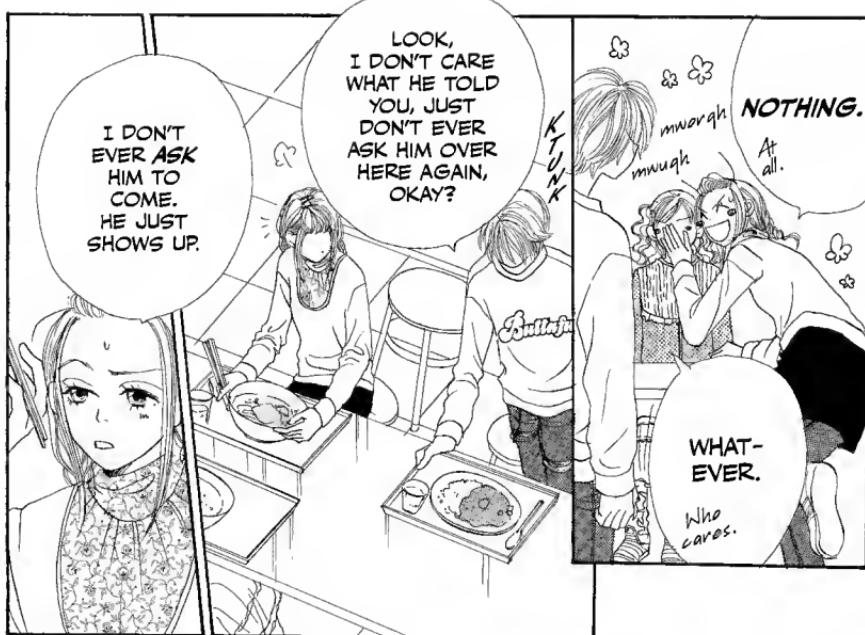


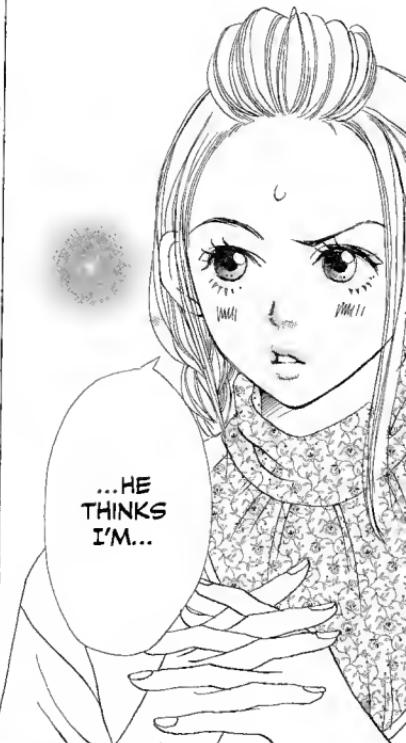












NO WAY.

NO WAY!  
NOOOO!  
NOT IN A  
MILLION  
YEARS!

WHY  
THIS TINY  
SHRIMP,  
OF ALL  
PEOPLE?!

I MEAN,  
COME  
ON!!  
THERE'S  
NO WAY!

WHAT  
THE  
HECK IS  
THIS ALL  
ABOUT?!

HEY,  
YOU'RE  
REALLY  
STARTING  
TO PISS  
ME OFF!!

WHAT  
KILLS  
YOU?!

WELL,  
YEAH!  
I MEAN,  
YOU ARE  
THE LAST  
PERSON!  
IT KILLS  
ME!!

UHH...  
SORRY,  
I THINK  
I'LL GO  
HOME.

WANNA  
HANG OUT  
AND WAIT FOR  
THE GUYS TO  
GET OUT OF  
BASKETBALL  
PRACTICE?

I'VE GOT  
A LOT  
OF STUFF  
TO THINK  
ABOUT...

WHY  
WOULD I  
GO AND  
FALL IN  
LOVE  
WITH THIS  
RUNT?

GIVE  
ME A  
MAJOR  
BREAK.

You in  
love with  
that  
shrimp?  
You'd  
say yes  
if it was  
Oguri  
right?

R  
I  
S  
A  
A  
A  
A  
A

YOU  
FORGOT  
?!

poor  
guys!

DARN IT! I'D  
FORGOTTEN  
ABOUT THAT  
FOR A SEC.

WHAT IS  
WRONG  
WITH  
ME?

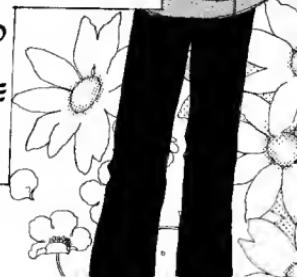
OH,  
YEAH.  
LIKE  
WHAT  
YOU'RE  
GONNA  
TELL  
HARUKA.

HARUKA'S  
THE ONE  
I NEED  
TO BE  
THINKING  
ABOUT.



WHO  
CARES  
ABOUT  
ÔTANI  
RIGHT  
NOW?

OKAY.  
SO.  
WHAT DO  
I SAY  
WHEN HE  
SAYS...



81

Hello.  
Nakahara here.  
We're up to Vol. 3.

I got another  
year older over the  
summer. It feels  
like...with every  
year I age, I lose  
more and more  
zing. You could  
say I'm "mellowing,"  
I suppose, but  
that doesn't quite  
seem to be it...  
More like I'm  
getting worn out...  
Or dull and listless...  
<sigh> umph...

And at the same  
time, it kinda feels  
like the manga  
I'm drawing are  
getting all hyper  
for no reason.  
<sigh> umph...

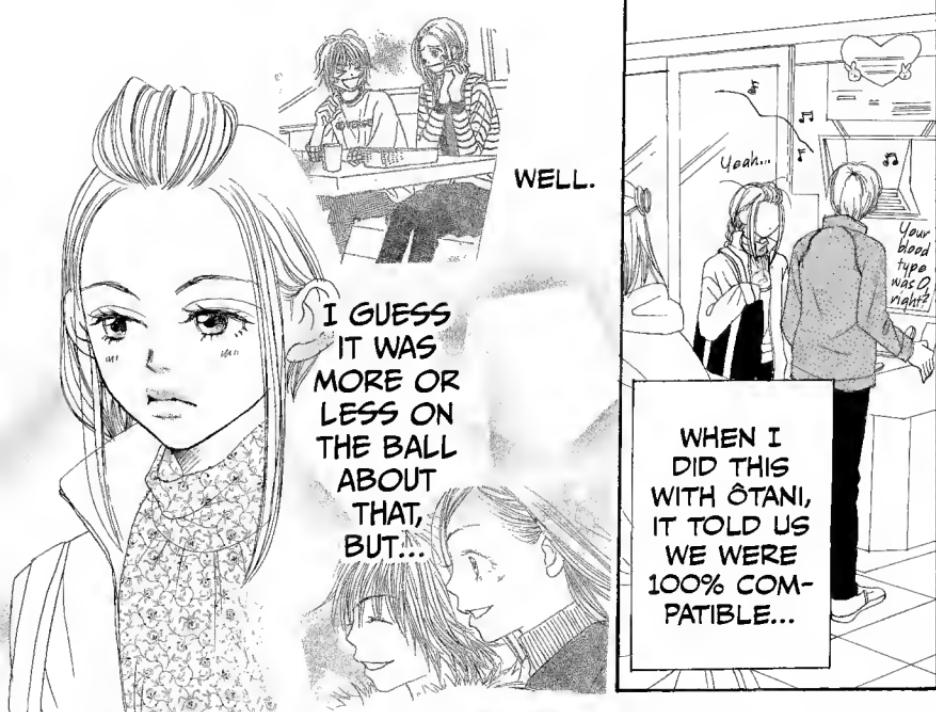
I'm starting to  
enjoy the taste  
of seaweed and  
tofu these days...  
chuumt chuumt

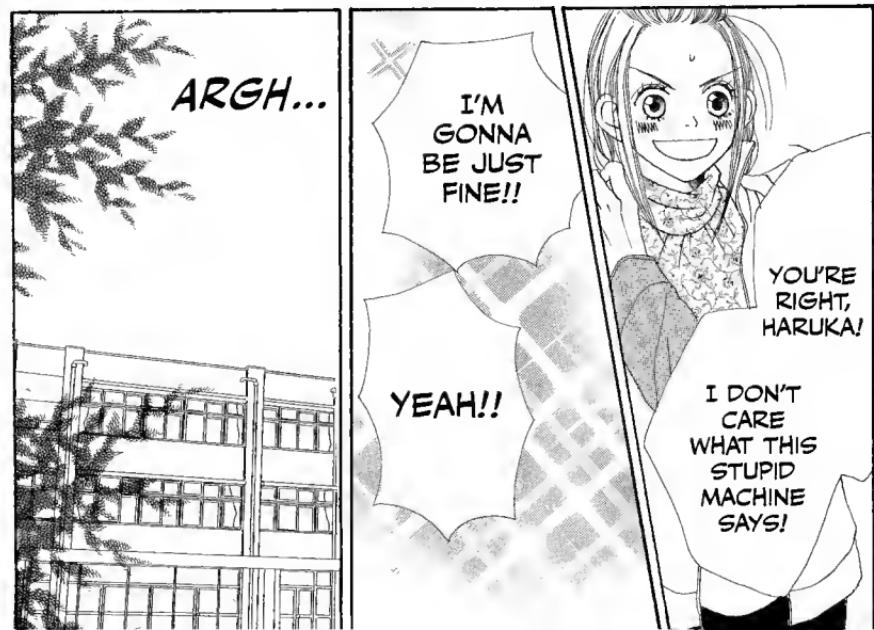
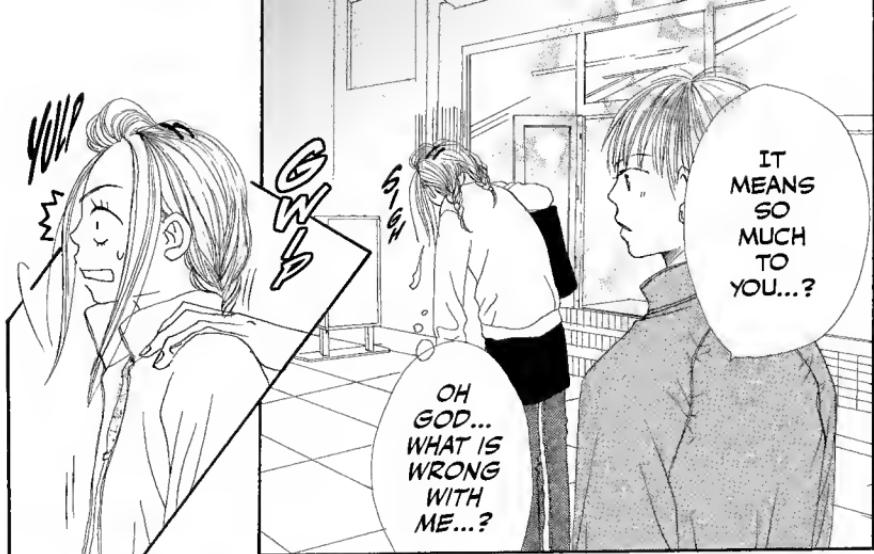
Gee, I really  
ought a hustle  
a little more...  
<sigh> umph...

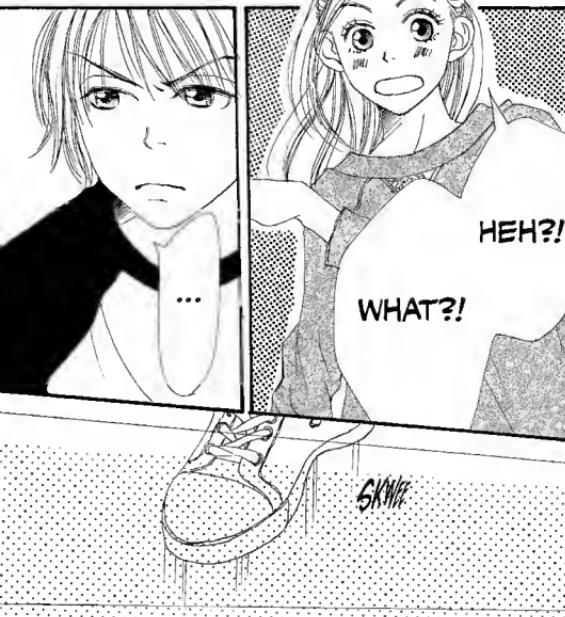
Back in the old  
days, I used to have  
the energy to fill  
up every last corner  
of these spaces...  
<sigh> umph.



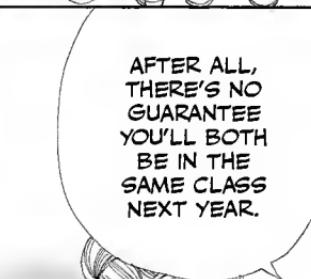
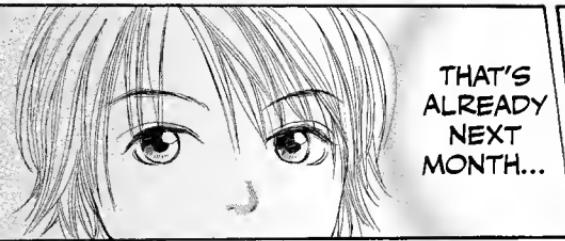
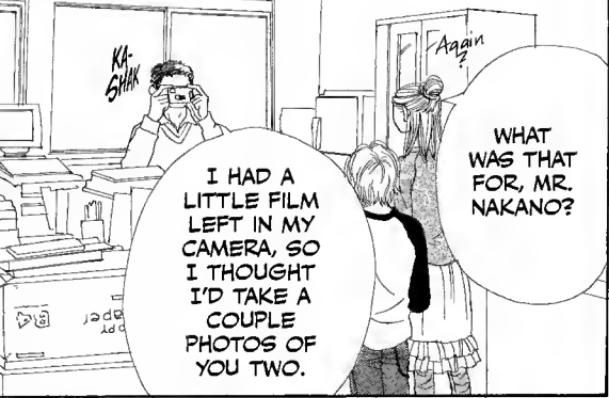












I'M BEING  
ASKED  
OUT FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME  
EVER.

I'VE  
GOT  
OTHER  
THINGS  
TO THINK  
ABOUT.

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

I  
DID IT  
AGAIN.

SO HOW  
COME I'M  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
THIS  
SHRIMP  
ALL THE  
TIME?

YEAH?

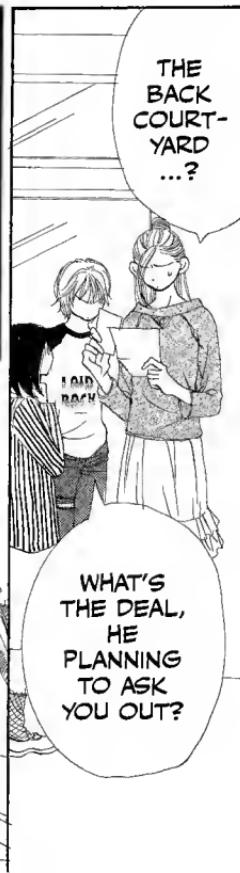
What  
is it?

HERE!

RISA!

DOES  
THIS  
MEAN...

I  
MIGHT  
BE IN  
LOVE  
WITH  
ÔTANI,  
AFTER  
ALL?



WHY'D  
YOU ASK  
TO MEET  
ME HERE,  
OF ALL  
PLACES...?

RISA!

HEH  
?!  
I THOUGHT  
IT WAS  
KINDA MEAN  
TO SAY  
THAT AND  
THEN LEAVE  
YOU HANG-  
ING, SO...

B-BUT...  
YOU SAID  
THAT WAS  
STILL...  
SOMETIME  
SOON...  
VV

AND AN  
EVEN BIGGER  
SURPRISE TO  
HAVE THE NEW  
ME SAY I WANT  
YOU TO BE MY  
GIRLFRIEND.

LOOK,  
I KNOW IT  
WAS A BIG  
SURPRISE  
WHEN I  
CAME  
BACK SO  
COOL AND  
DREAMY.

HEH?  
IS THIS  
FOR  
REAL?

IT'S  
FOR  
REAL!

BECAUSE  
THE BACK  
COURTYARD IS  
WHERE PEOPLE  
TELL PEOPLE  
THEY LOVE  
THEM AND WANT  
TO GO OUT  
WITH THEM.  
WHY ELSE?















"AND  
I SURE  
DON'T  
WANT A  
JUMBO-  
GAL  
LIKE HER,  
EITHER."

"AS IF  
KOIZUMI  
WOULD  
EVER BE  
IN LOVE  
WITH ME."

I KNOW IT'S  
WEIRD FOR  
SOMEONE AS  
TALL AS ME  
TO FALL FOR  
SOMEBODY  
AS SHORT  
AS ÔTANI.

I DON'T  
NEED  
ANYBODY  
TO TELL  
ME THAT.

I  
KNOW  
THAT.



I  
KNOW  
ALL  
THAT,  
OKAY?

AND  
I KNOW  
THAT ÔTANI  
WOULD  
NEVER  
EVER FALL  
IN LOVE  
WITH ME.

AND  
THAT'S  
WHY...

RISA...?

THAT'S  
WHY HE'S  
THE LAST  
PERSON  
I WANT  
TO BE  
IN LOVE  
WITH.

RISA?!

SKWUSH

WHA...

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
RISA?!

tump

RI...  
SA...

...?

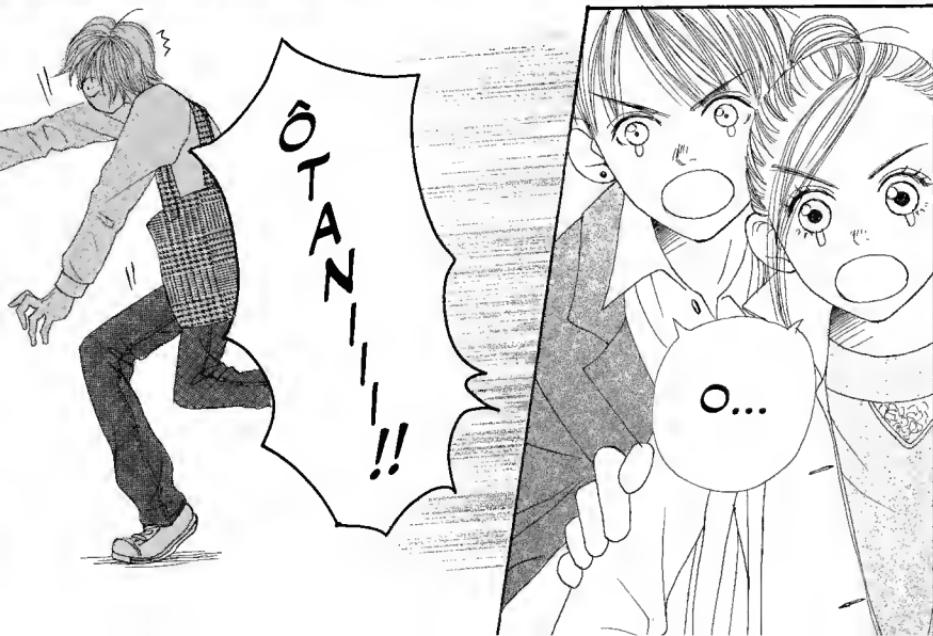
...  
NOTHING.

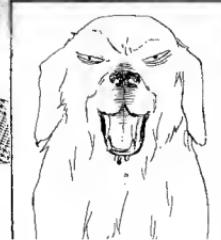
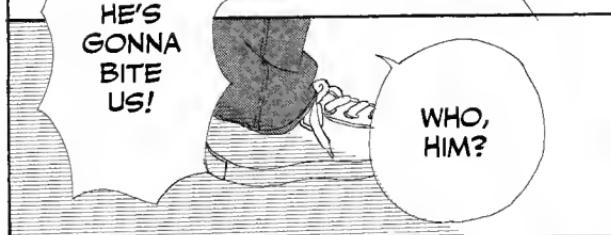
HM?

WHAT...

OVER  
THERE...













LOOK.  
HARD TO  
BELIEVE  
SOME-  
TIMES, BUT  
KOIZUMI'S  
A GIRL.

IF YOU  
LOVE HER,  
YOU GOTTA  
TAKE CARE  
OF HER!

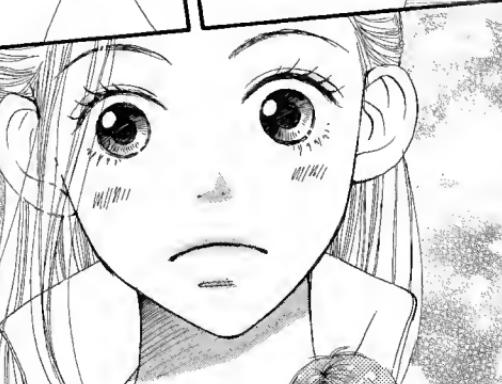


WELL,  
YEAH  
...

DUDE!  
A HERO  
AND A  
GIRLFRIEND  
AREN'T  
THE SAME  
THING,  
OKAY?!



A GUY  
LOOKS  
OUT FOR  
HIS GIRL-  
FRIEND,  
NOT THE  
OTHER WAY  
AROUND!!



THAT'S  
REALLY  
RUDE.

HEY.  
HARD  
TO  
BELIEVE  
SOME-  
TIMES  
...?



...











HERE WE  
ARE, SAYING  
HOW COOL HE  
IS, AND THE GUY  
DOESN'T EVEN  
HEAR US.

Kinda  
ruins  
it.



...I LOVED  
HIM AND  
WAS CRAZY  
ABOUT  
HIM...

IF I  
SAID...

...



...I WONDER  
WHAT HIS  
REACTION  
WOULD BE.

How  
long's he  
gonna  
pet him?

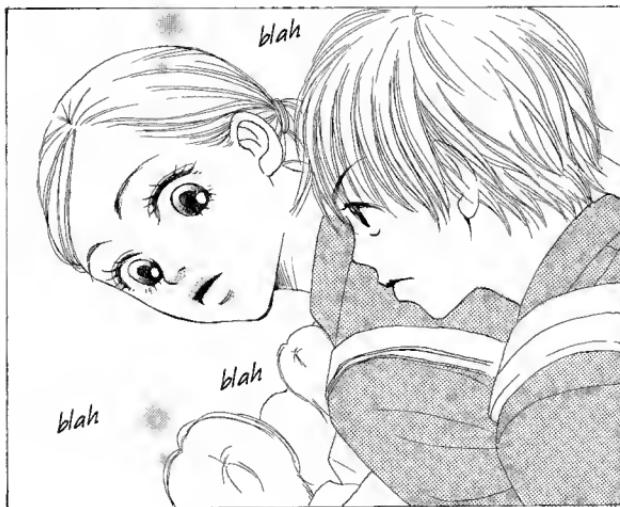


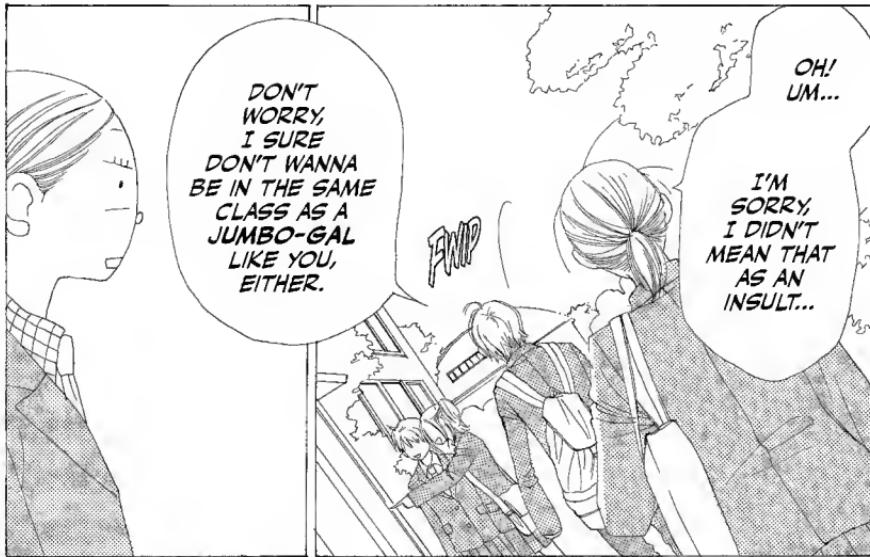
Hey  
cutie.

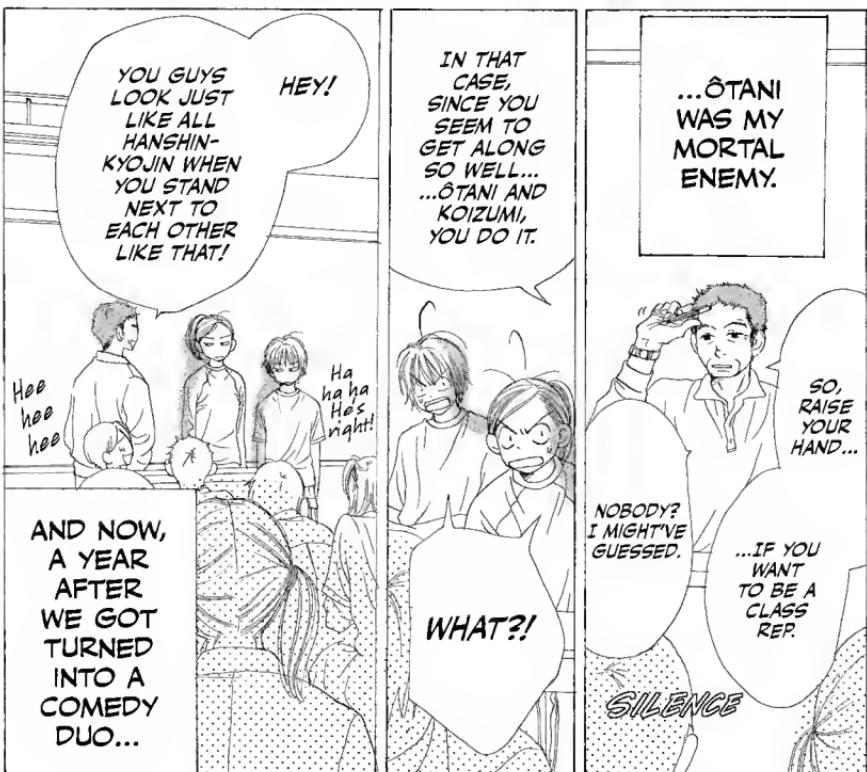


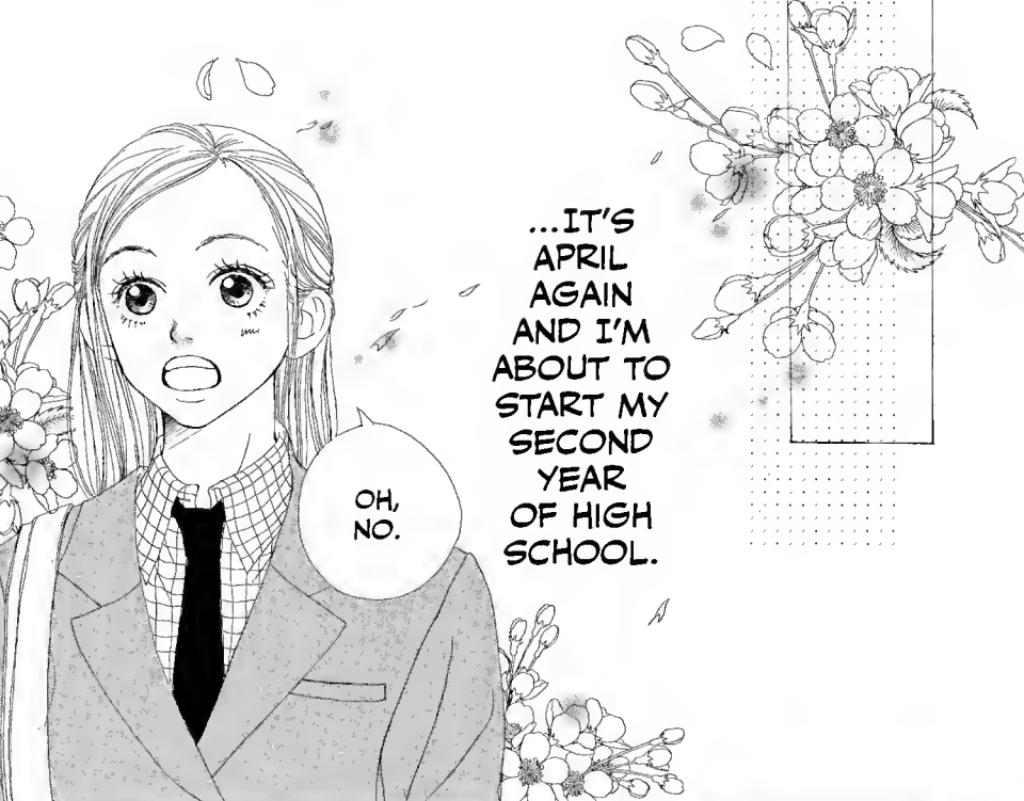


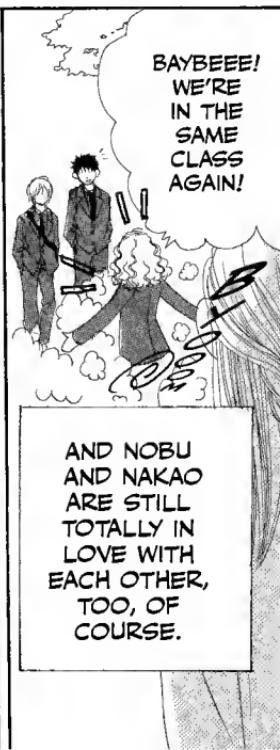
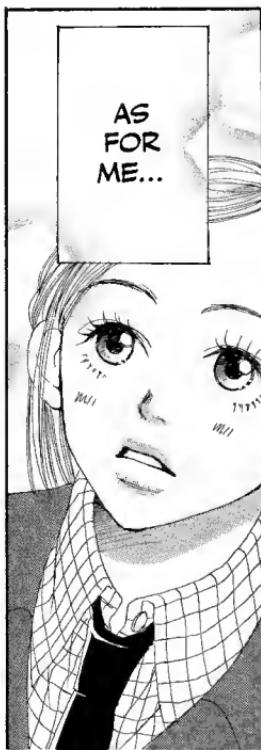
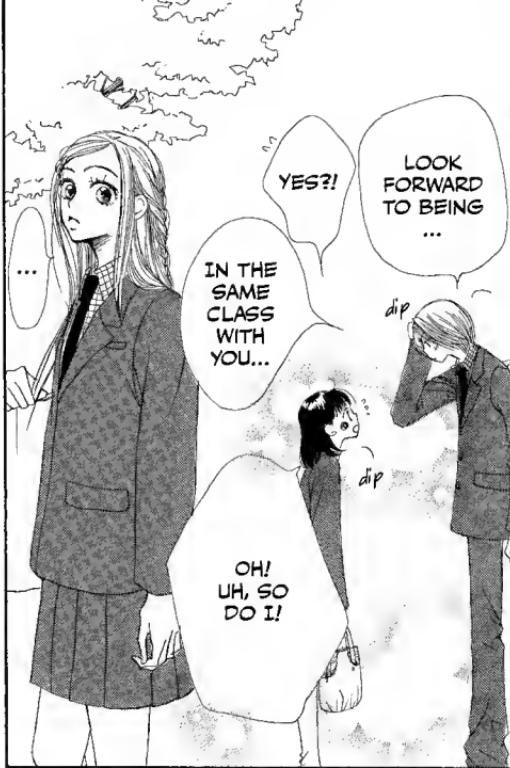
CHAPTER 10











YEAR TWO, CLASS THREE

WHAAAAT?!

Araki, Keisuke  
Inoue, Hitoshi  
Ôtani, Atsushi  
Sakaki, Kôji

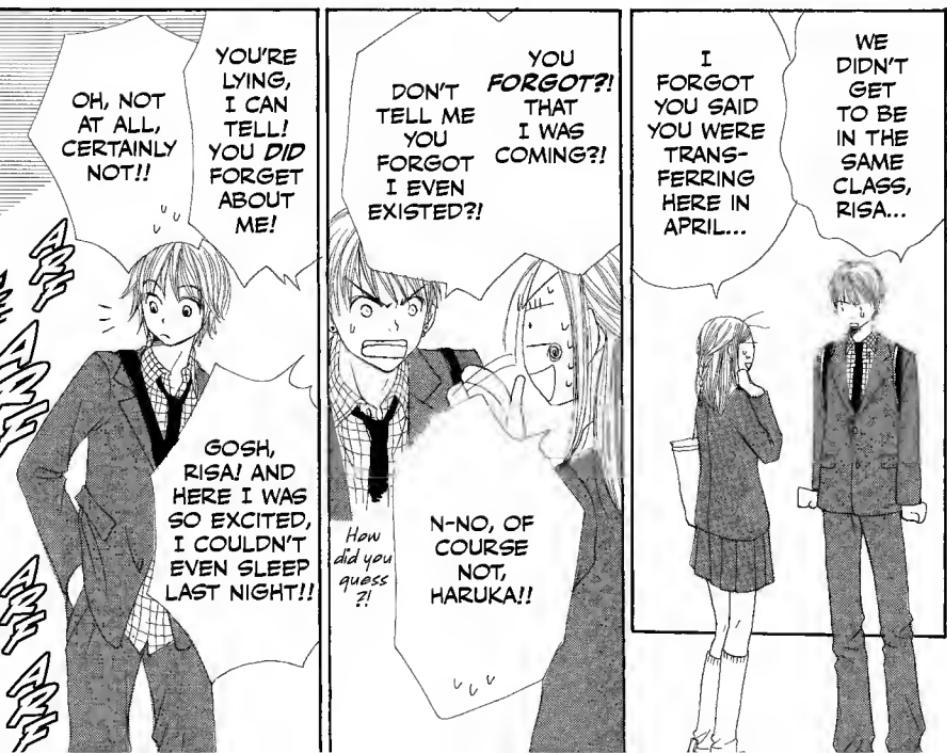
Ikebe, Nana  
Idomoto, Yûko  
Koizumi, Risa  
Segawa, Nao  
Tsuyama, Mako

Ikebe, Yûki  
Esaka, Kenji  
Kodama, Takao  
Shingaki, Motoaki

Ishihara, Nobuko  
Kakita, Ai  
Satô, Reiko  
Tasaki, Kazuko













...THAT'S  
KIND OF  
A BOTHER,  
SO WHY  
DON'T WE  
JUST ELECT  
OUR CLASS  
REPS, AND  
LEAVE THE  
REST UP  
TO THEM?

OKAY,  
SO  
LET'S  
SEE...

SHHHH  
MHHH



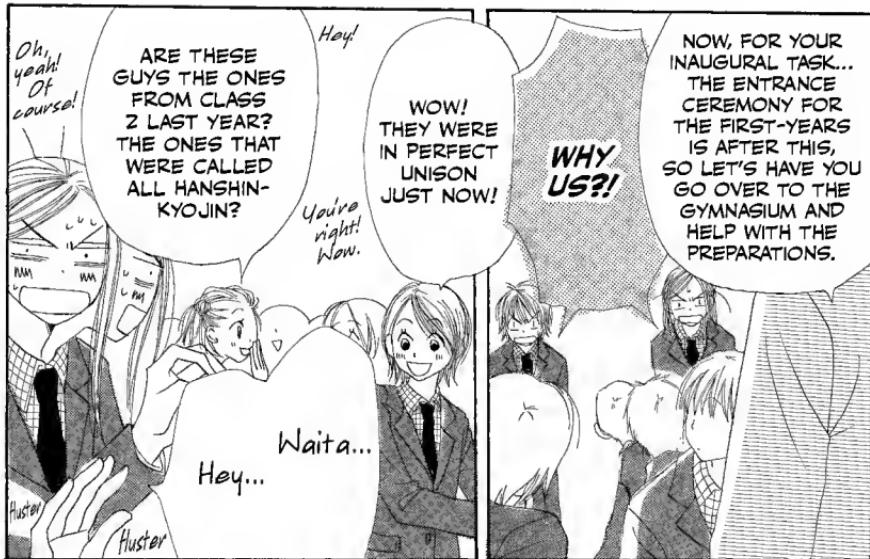
KLATTER

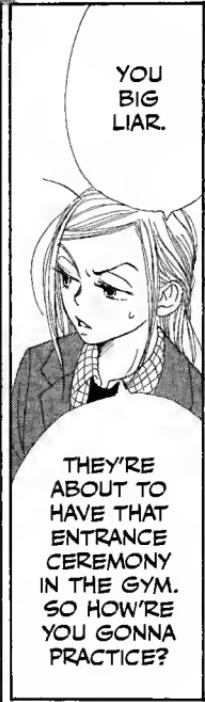
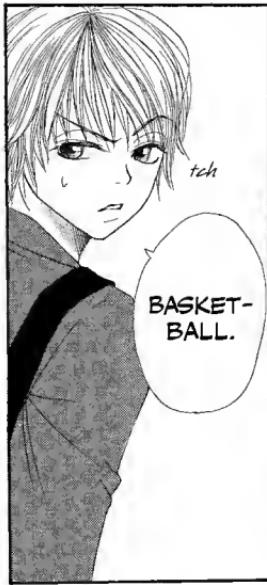
HOW ABOUT  
KOIZUMI AND  
OTANI, WHO  
GET ALONG  
SO WELL THEY  
CAN CONVERSE  
USING ONLY  
EYE CONTACT?



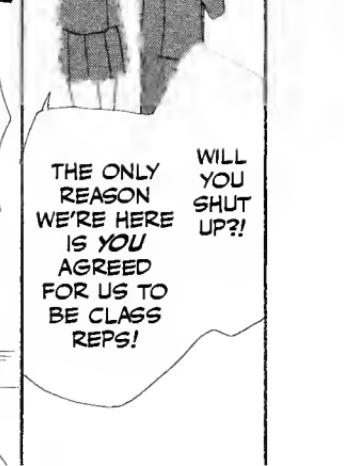
WHY  
US?!









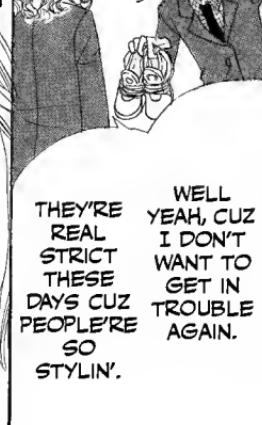
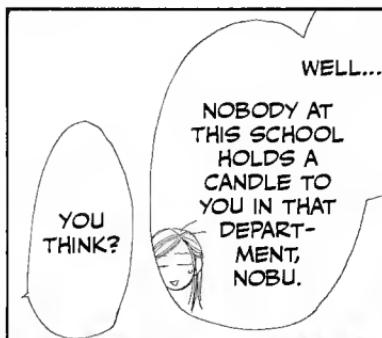


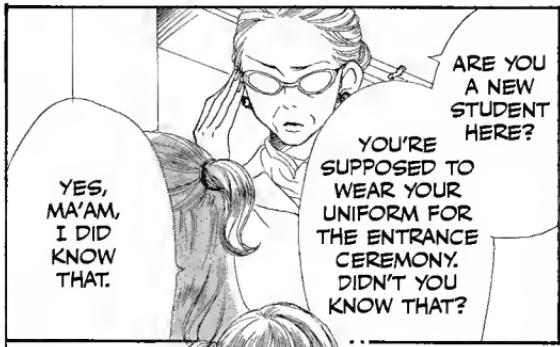
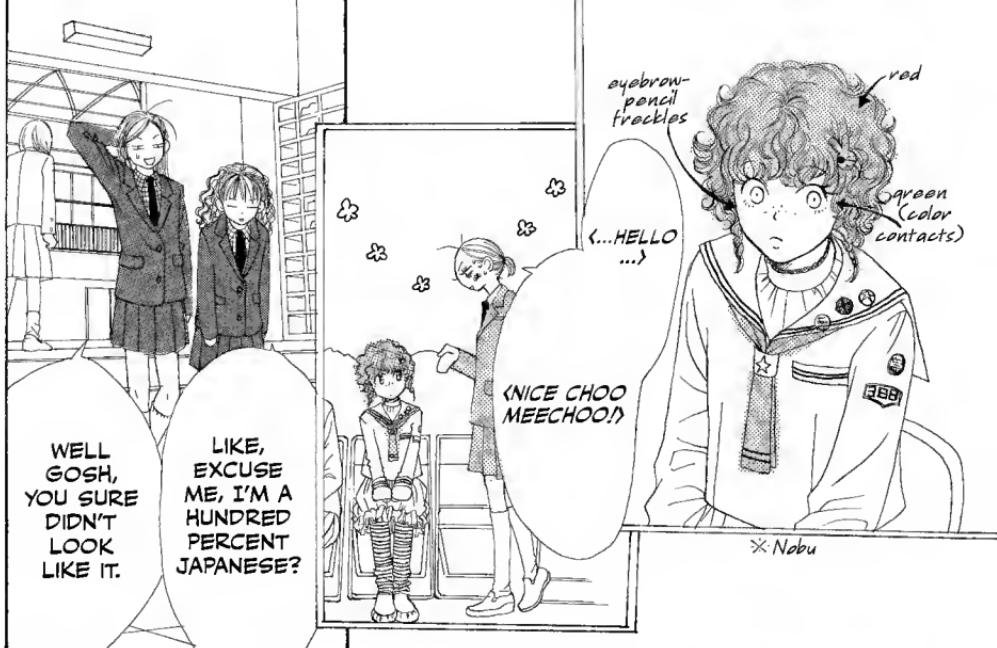


So anyway, I turned 74 on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Well that's a lie, but that day, which really was my birthday, I did an autograph session for the first time in my life. When it got decided that I would do this, people in my family said stuff like "Who'd come to something like that? What'll you do if nobody comes?", in other

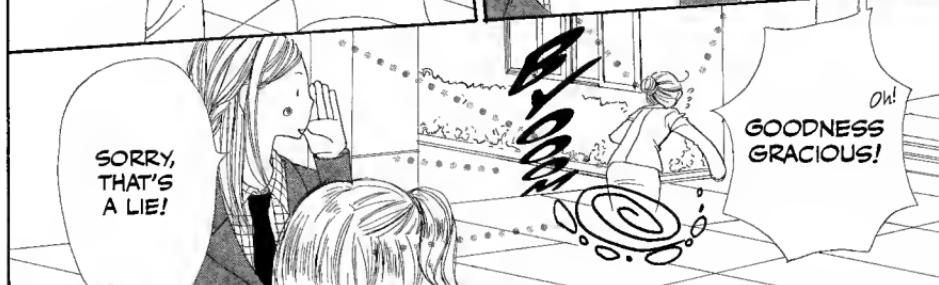
words coming right out and voicing my deepest qualms, but when the day arrived a lot of people took the time and trouble to come. Thank you so much! I'm not very good at that kind of thing so I was really stiff and nervous, and I'm sure I did all kinds of things wrong, but I was really happy that I got to meet so many of the people out there who read my manga. Thank you again for coming.

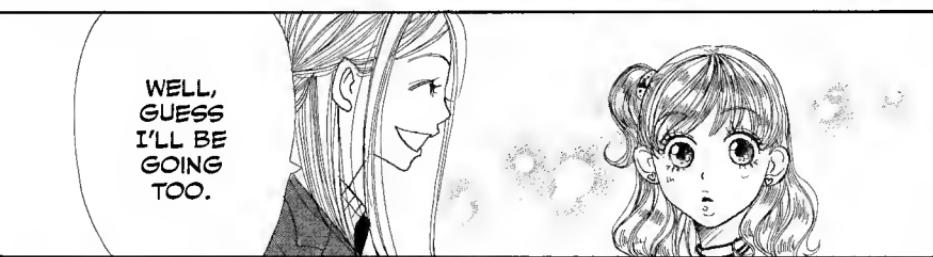
Ikuumi-sensei and Chiyo Morinaga and Ayako Yoshimura came and stood in line for my autograph that day, too. I sneaked a little poop cartoon next to my autograph for theirs.

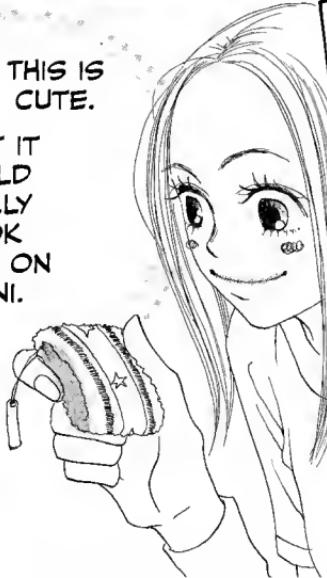
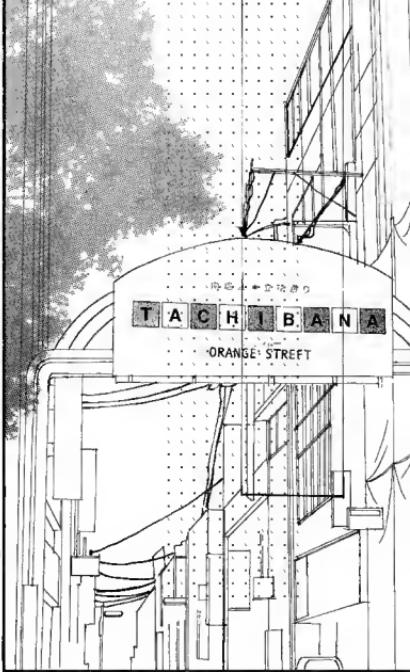












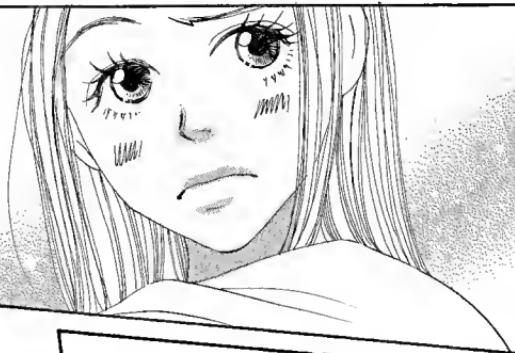


"I MADE  
VARSITY  
THIS YEAR.  
I'M GONNA  
BE PLAYING  
AS A  
REGULAR IN  
ALL OUR  
GAMES."



SO?!  
LIKE I'M  
GONNA  
BUY  
IT FOR  
HIM?!

...



NOTHING  
STRANGE  
ABOUT  
GETTING  
HIM A LITTLE  
GIFT TO  
CELEBRATE,  
RIGHT?

K  
R  
E  
E

THANK  
YOU.  
HAVE  
A NICE  
DAY!

HMM-  
MM...

...WHAT'RE  
YOU  
DOING?



HEY!

FW

UP



THIS  
LOOK  
GOOD  
ON  
ME?



GIVE IT  
BACK!!



WHY DO I HAVE  
TO TURN THE  
SIMPLE ACT OF  
GIVING HIM A  
GIFT INTO THIS  
BIG PRODUCTION?  
WHY CAN'T I BE  
NICE AND SWEET,  
FOR ONCE?

WOW  
YOU GOT  
ME A  
PRESENT.  
THAT'S  
TOTALLY  
INSANE.

...WHY  
?!

I  
DON'T  
KNOW...

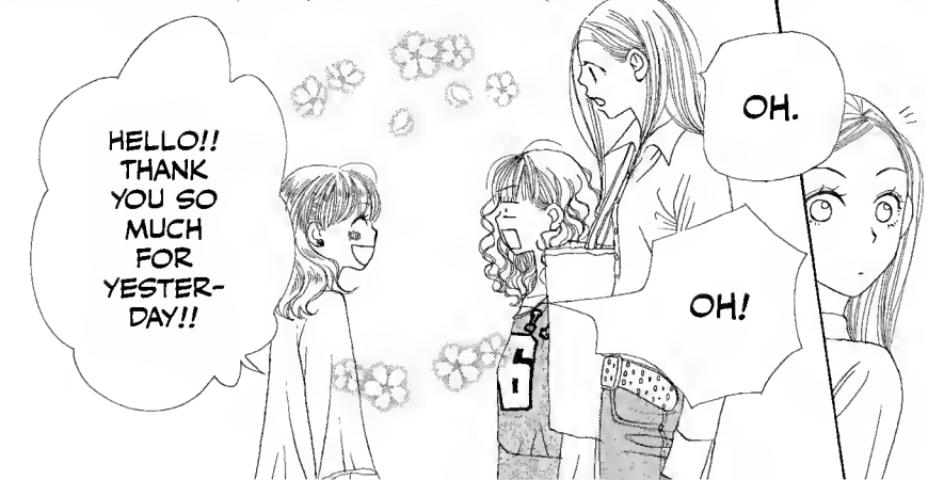
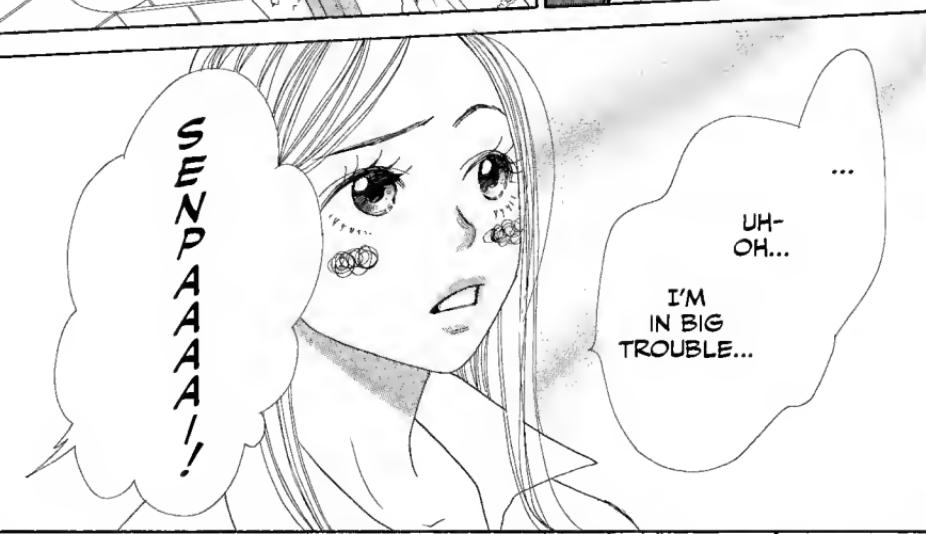
IT'S LIKE,  
I WANT  
TO BE A  
LITTLE  
CUTER, YOU  
KNOW?

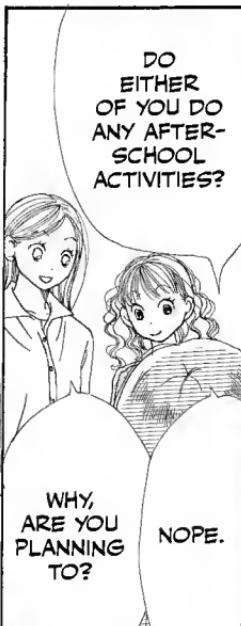
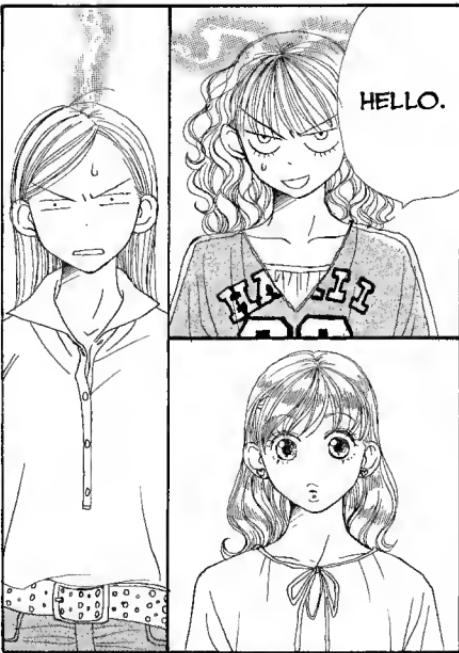
I'M ALWAYS  
BLAMING  
MY HEIGHT,  
WHEN  
ACTUALLY  
IT'S MY  
PERSONALITY.

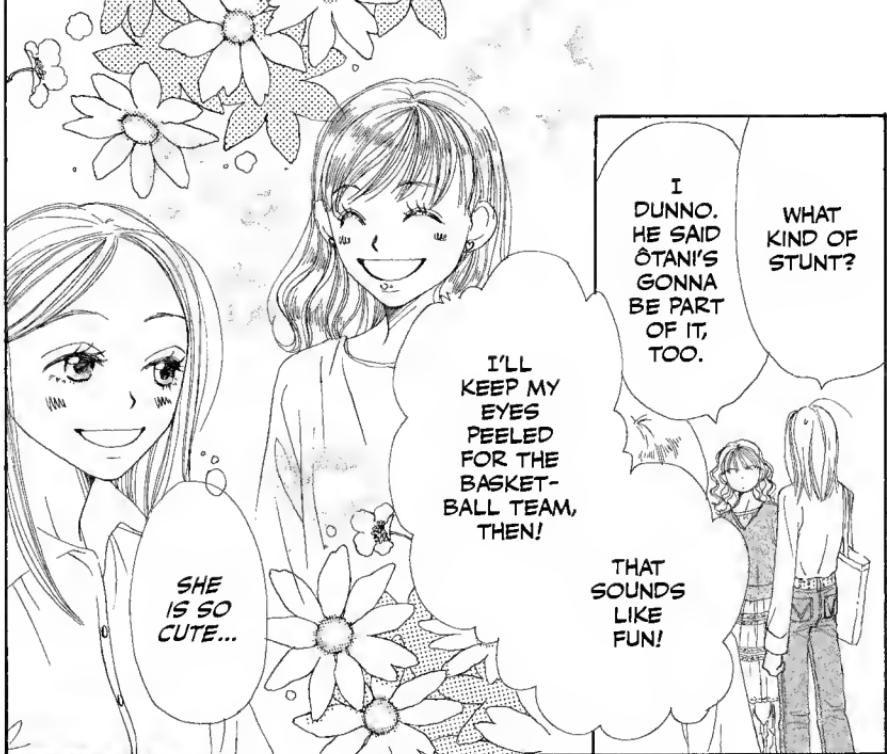
HEH?

YOU KNOW  
WHAT MY  
PROBLEM  
IS?

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER  
WITH  
YOU?







WHY  
SHOULD  
WE?  
IT WAS  
STUDY  
PERIOD.

HOPE  
WE DON'T  
GET IN  
TROUBLE  
FOR  
SKIPPING  
CLASS.

IT'S NO FAIR  
THAT ONLY  
PEOPLE WHO DO  
AFTER-SCHOOL  
ACTIVITIES GET  
TO MISS CLASS,  
ANYWAY.

SO ANYWAY,  
THAT'S WHAT  
YOU'D DO  
ON THE SWIM  
TEAM, AND...

THEY  
LOOK  
PRETTY  
SILLY.

LOOK,  
THEY'RE  
DEMON-  
STRATING  
STROKES.

JUST  
IN  
TIME!

HERE  
WE GO

## THE BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM!

**BUT  
BEGINNERS  
ARE TOTALLY  
WELCOME  
TO JOIN!**

IF YOU  
AREN'T ANY  
GOOD NOW,  
DON'T WORRY,  
YOU'LL GET  
BETTER!

AND IT  
HAPPENS TO  
BE ONE OF THE  
STRONGEST  
TEAMS IN ALL  
OF OSAKA  
PREFECTURE.

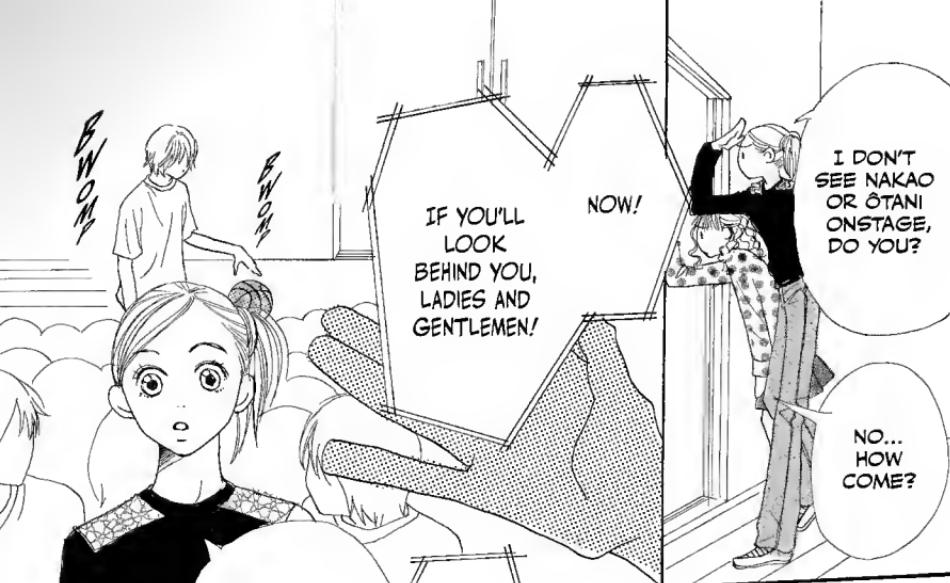
OUR  
BASKETBALL  
TEAM HAS  
ELEVEN  
MEMBERS  
RIGHT  
NOW...

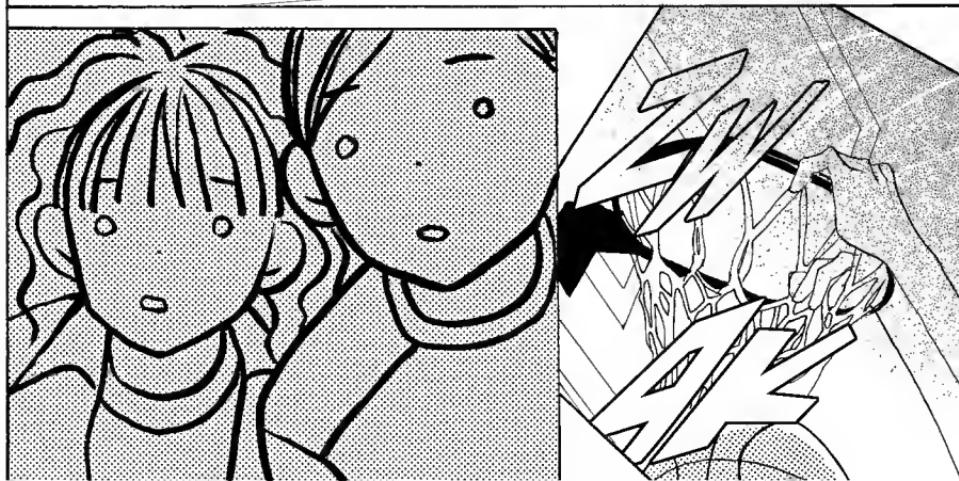
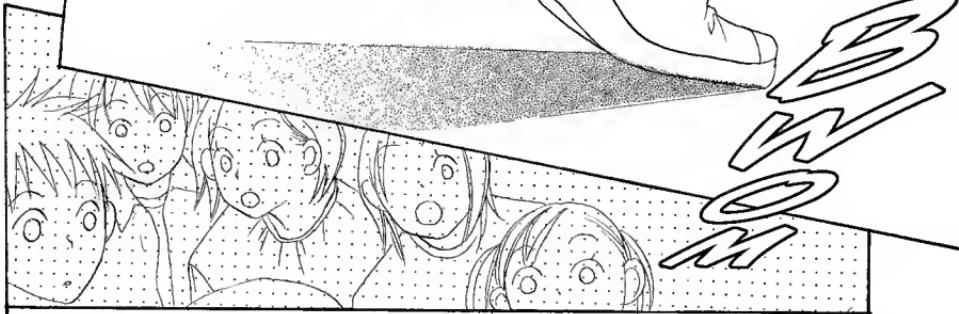
NEXT  
UP!

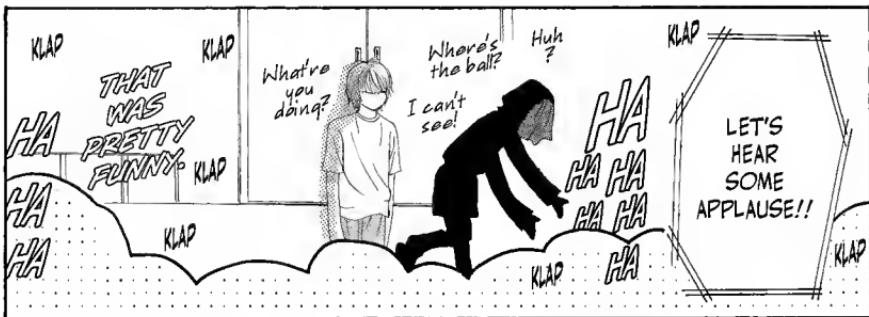
M. I.  
M. DUNNO.

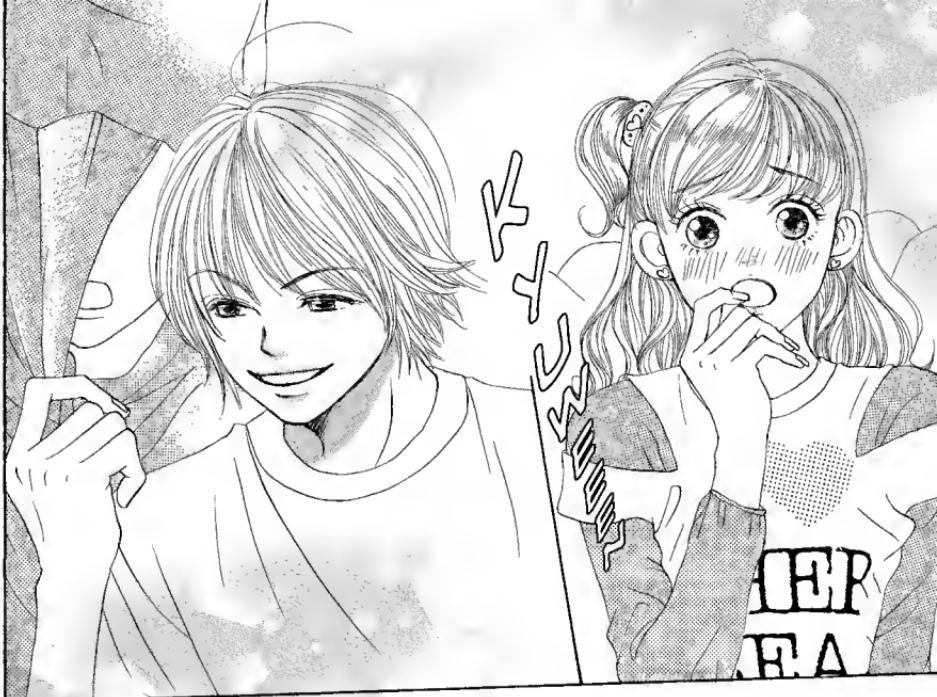
I KNOW.  
PLUS I  
WANNA  
SEE MY  
DARLIN'  
DO HIS  
THING.

SO  
WHAT'S  
HE  
GONNA  
DO?











ARE YOU  
FRIENDS  
WITH THIS  
PERSON?

YES,  
AND UH!  
UM! UM,  
SENPAI?!



DID YOU  
CATCH THE  
BASKET-  
BALL TEAM...?

OH,  
HI.

WHO,  
THIS SHRIMP?  
I GUESS SO,  
YEAH. THOUGH  
I'M SICK AND  
TIRED OF SEEING  
HIM EVERY DAY,  
WHICH I HAVE TO  
SINCE WE'RE  
CLASSMATES.

OH,  
YOU'RE  
CLASS-  
MATES?

YOU  
DIE!!

THAT  
DUNK YOU  
DID AT THE  
ASSEMBLY  
WAS  
SUPER-  
COOL!!

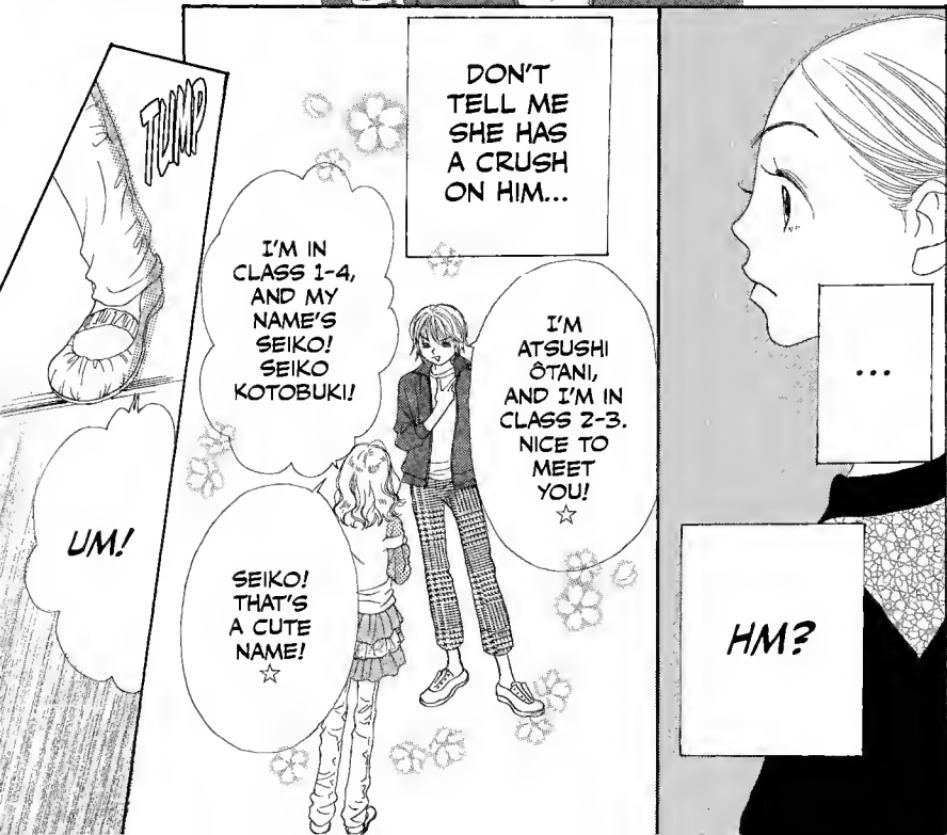
UHHH!

YEAH.  
WE MET  
THE FIRST  
DAY OF  
SCHOOL.

WHO  
IS SHE,  
A FRESH-  
MAN?

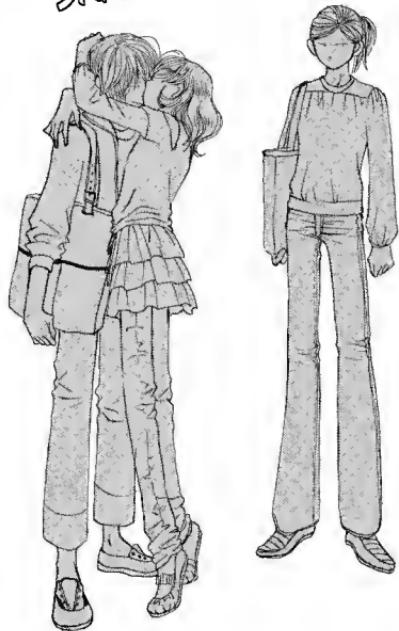
I LOVE  
HOW SHE  
ALWAYS  
CALLS ME  
"SENPAI."

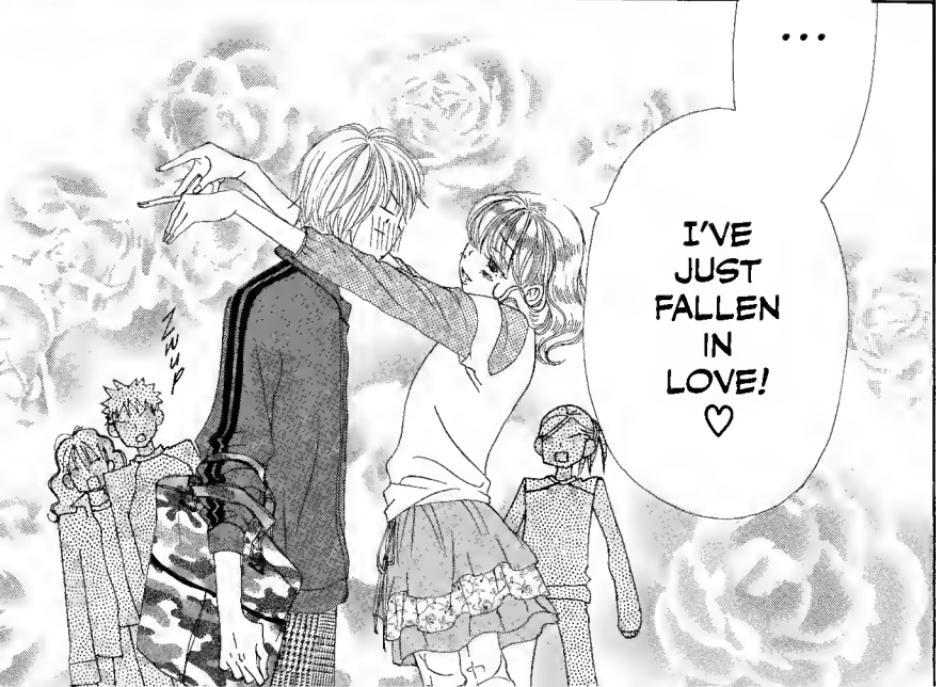
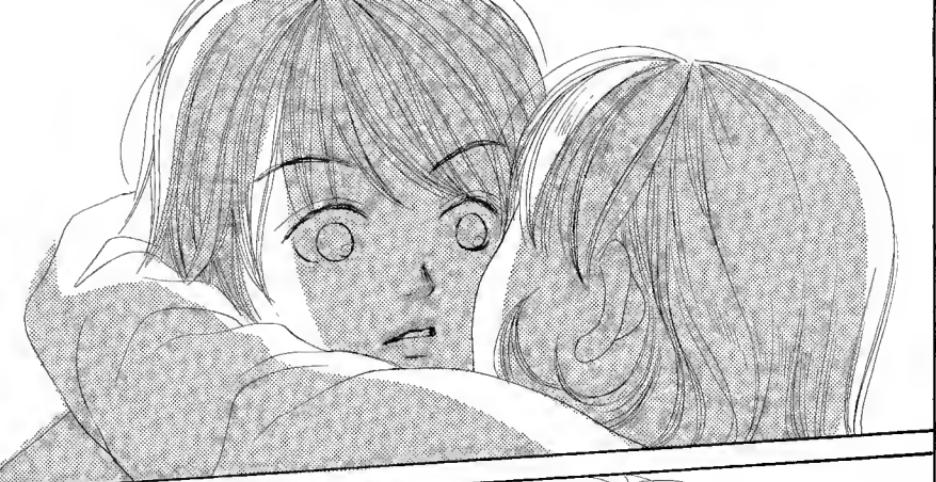
YOU WERE  
TALKING TO  
HER THE  
OTHER DAY  
TOO,  
WEREN'T  
YOU?





SMAK











## CHAPTER 11



KISS  
HIM  
...?!!

...UH...



OH, NO.  
ARE YOU  
MAD AT  
ME?!

HUH?

I...  
SOMETHING  
JUST CAME  
OVER ME,  
AND... I  
HARDLY EVEN  
KNEW WHAT I  
WAS DOING...

OH MY  
GOSH,  
I'M SO  
SORRY!

WHAT  
?!

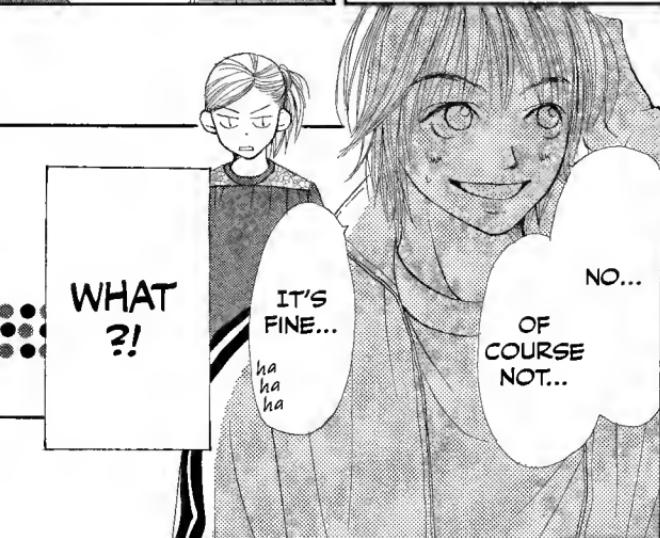
IT'S  
FINE...

ha  
ha  
ha

NO...

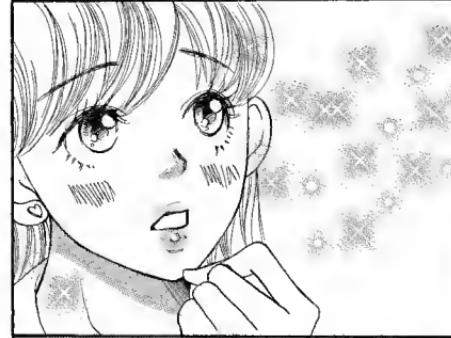
OF  
COURSE  
NOT...

OOPS!





HUH?



...IF IT'S  
OKAY  
WITH  
YOU...

UM... I'LL  
TRY REALLY  
HARD NOT TO  
DO STUFF  
LIKE THAT  
ANYMORE,  
SO...



...COULD WE  
MAYBE START  
SEEING EACH  
OTHER? JUST  
AS FRIENDS?  
WELL, AT  
FIRST, ANYWAY?







I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
THIS!!

Don't you  
think you're  
a little...  
naive?  
Come on, adults!  
Give me a chance!  
(sigh)

blah

blah

Hiya!

blah

blah

...You  
big  
lech.

mumble

8 9

This summer went by real fast 'cuz I was so busy doing all kinds of stuff. Like going to see a lot of bands. The Ultuls have been doing this big outdoor show every summer for the past two or three years, in Osaka only, and I never miss that...except last year I did, because of work, so this year I made up for it by going nuts for two years' worth. Every time I go to that, I'm like, "I am so glad I'm from Osaka!!" Those guys electrify me. bzz bzz bzz

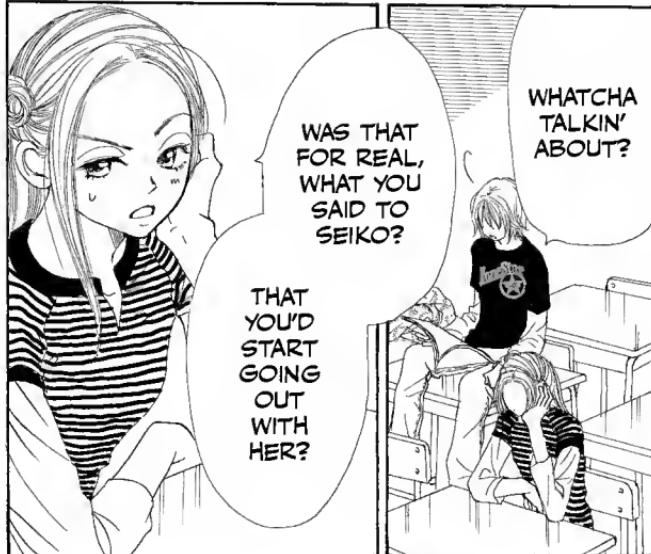
The only time I have any energy is when I go to concerts. *(sigh)* umph.

Oh, and the other day I went to this outdoor festival called "Rush Ball 2002" where they had bands playing all day from around noon until 8 p.m. or so.

That's a lot of bands. So I only went around halfway through, in the late afternoon.

What a slacker!

But I got to see lots of people I really love, like Tamio Okuda and Bump of Chicken and Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra, all in one day, so that was pretty great.



Y-YOU  
WERE  
RIGHT  
THERE  
WHEN  
HARUKA  
ASKED  
ME OUT!

LIKE,  
WOW,  
THAT'S  
REALLY  
ROMANTIC.

YEAH,  
CUZ HE  
WANTED  
A BODY-  
GUARD.

JUST 'CUZ  
NOBODY  
EVER ASKS  
YOU OUT,  
DON'T TAKE  
IT OUT ON  
ME, ALL  
RIGHT?!

UH...  
WHADDAYA  
MEAN,  
NOBODY  
EVER  
ASKS ME  
OUT?!

I GUESS  
SOME OF  
US ARE JUST  
IRRESISTIBLY  
SEXY OR  
SOMETHING,  
I DON'T  
KNOW...

AND  
HOW'D I  
DO THAT?  
BY JUST  
STANDING  
THERE.

I, ON THE  
OTHER HAND,  
GOT LITTLE  
SEIKO SO  
HOT AND  
BOthered SHE  
WAS KISSING  
ME BEFORE  
SHE EVEN  
KNEW WHAT  
HAPPENED!

NWORGH  
...

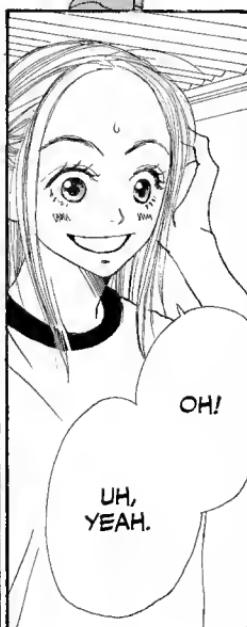
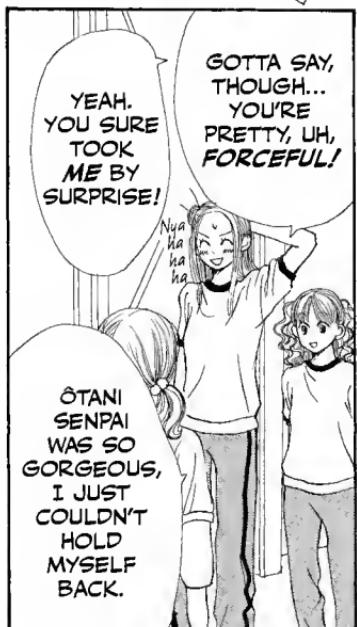
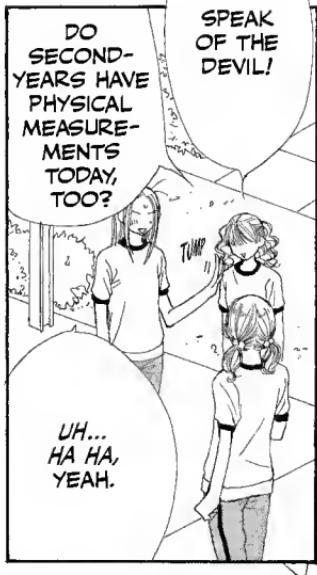
WHAT  
LANGUAGE  
IS THAT?

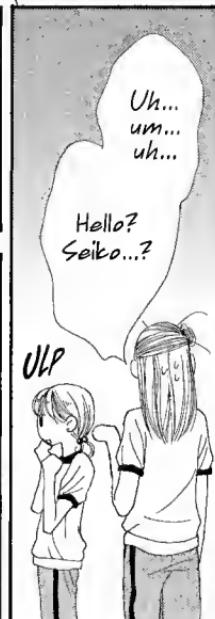
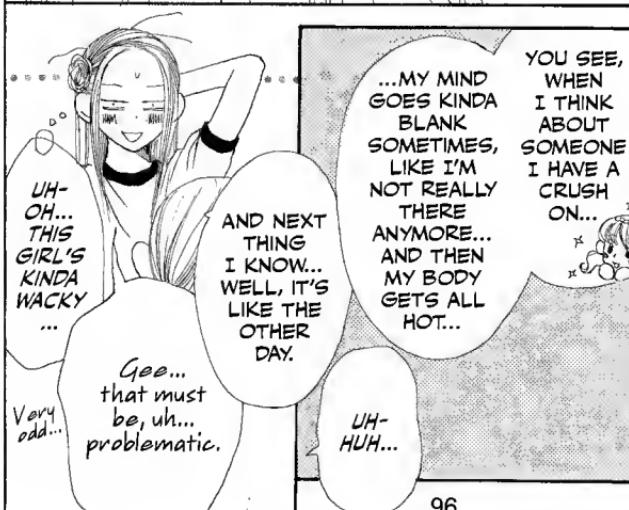
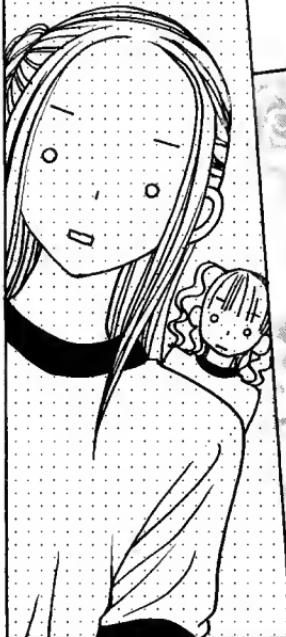
IRREZ  
ZITS  
BLEE BOO  
DE ARGH  
BWAA-  
ARGH!!

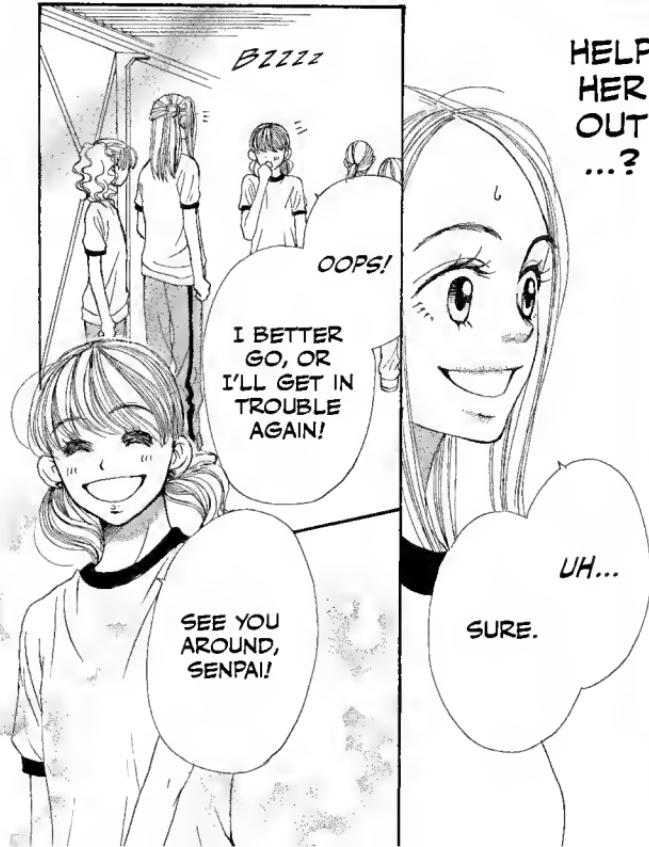
GOSH  
DARN IT,  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
I CAN  
SAY...

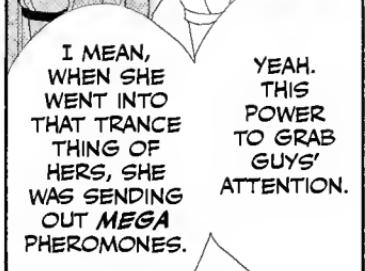
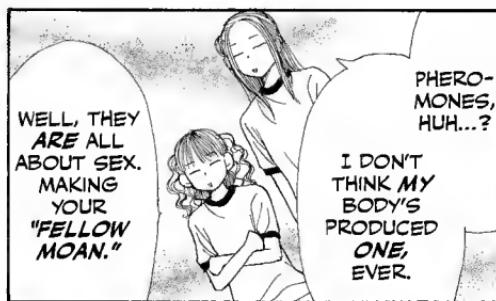
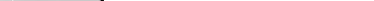












WHY  
SHOULD  
I HAVE TO  
HUSTLE?!

YOU  
BETTER  
HUSTLE,  
RISA.

NEXT.  
RISA  
KOIZUMI.

I MEAN,  
HUSTLE  
FOR  
WHAT?!

BUT WITH  
ALL THOSE  
PHEROMONES  
OF HERS... I'D  
SAY THERE'S A  
GOOD CHANCE  
HE'LL GO FOR  
HER ANYWAY.

WELL, SURE,  
I GUESS HE'D  
RATHER HAVE  
SOMEONE LIKE  
HER AFTER HIM  
THAN A BIG OL'  
GIRL LIKE ME...

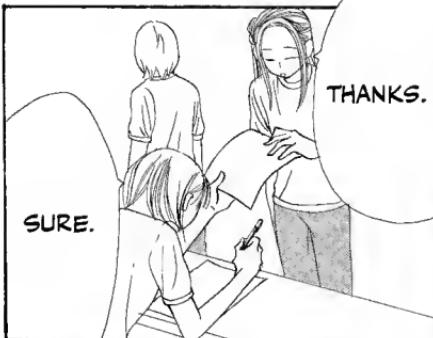
BUT  
SEIKO'S  
SMALL,  
AND  
REALLY  
CUTE...

...SHE'S  
RIGHT.

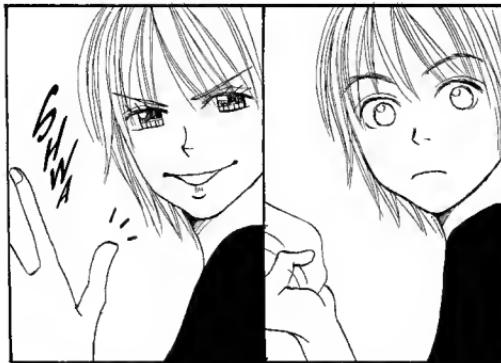
ÔTANI  
GENERALLY  
GOES FOR  
QUIETER  
GIRLS.

PLUS,  
LOOK AT  
HOW MUCH  
IT'S GONE  
TO HIS HEAD  
ALREADY.

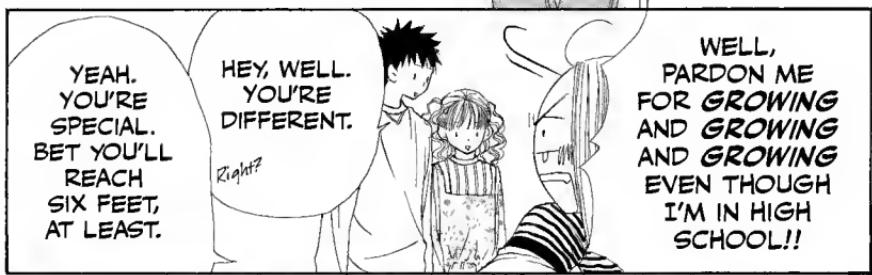
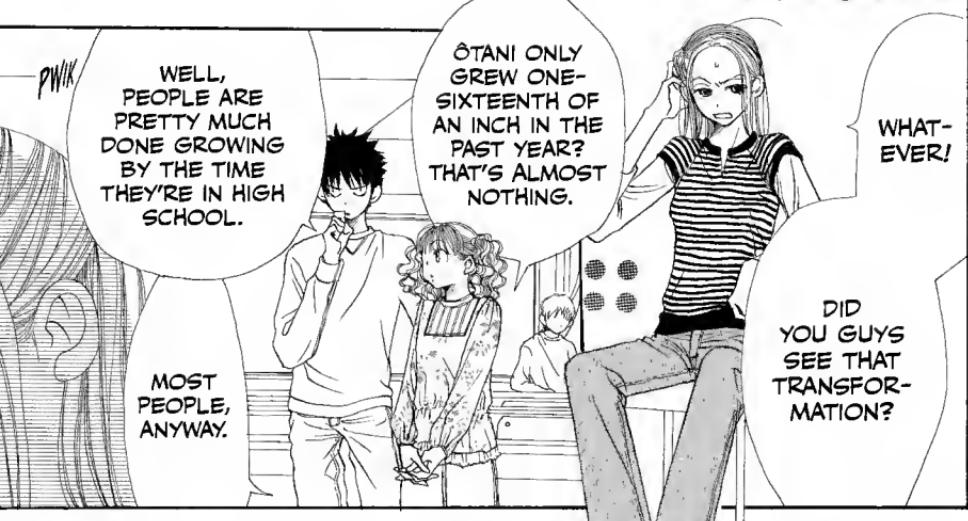








HOW ARE YOU, ÔTANI SENPAI?





WOULD YOU MIND IF I WAITED FOR YOU UNTIL YOU'RE DONE?

SURE DO.



SURE.

...SURE  
...  
AND WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I WATCHED YOU PRACTICE?

Anytime.



GOODNESS GRACIOUS.

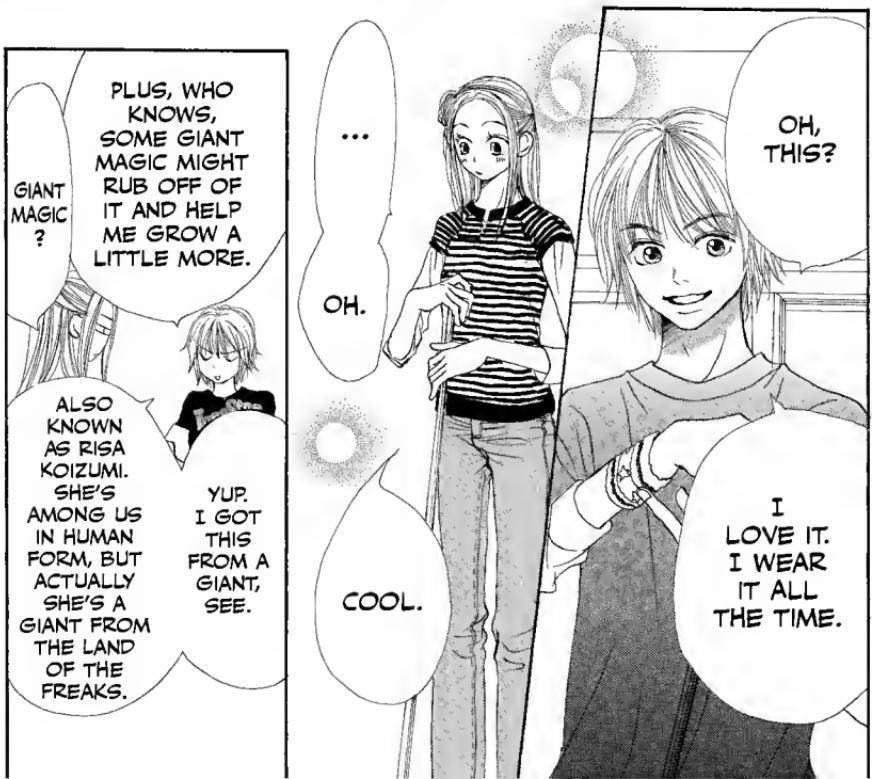
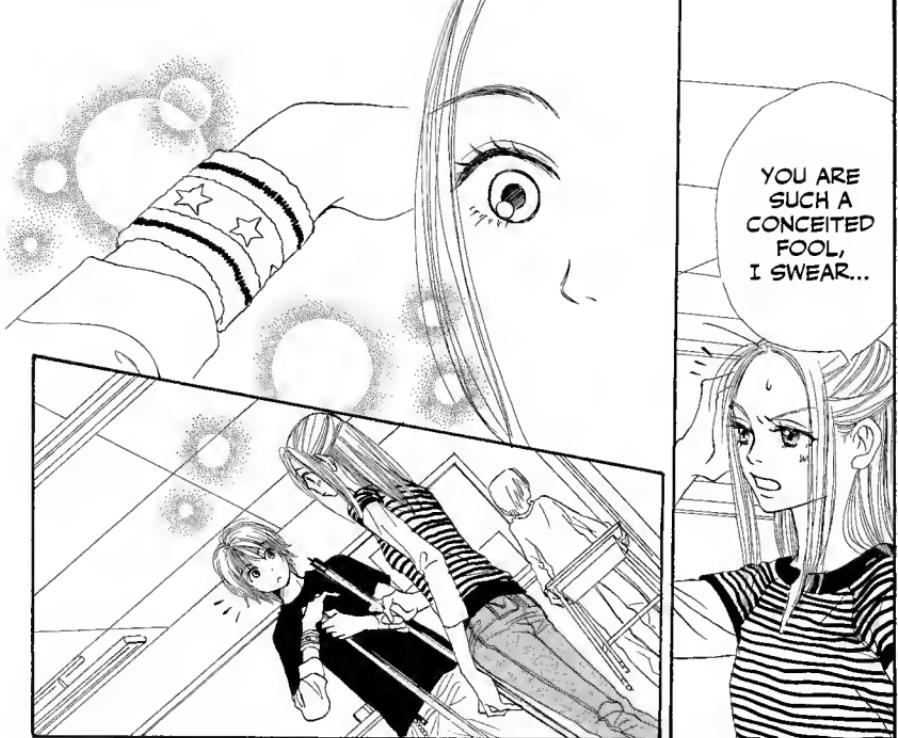


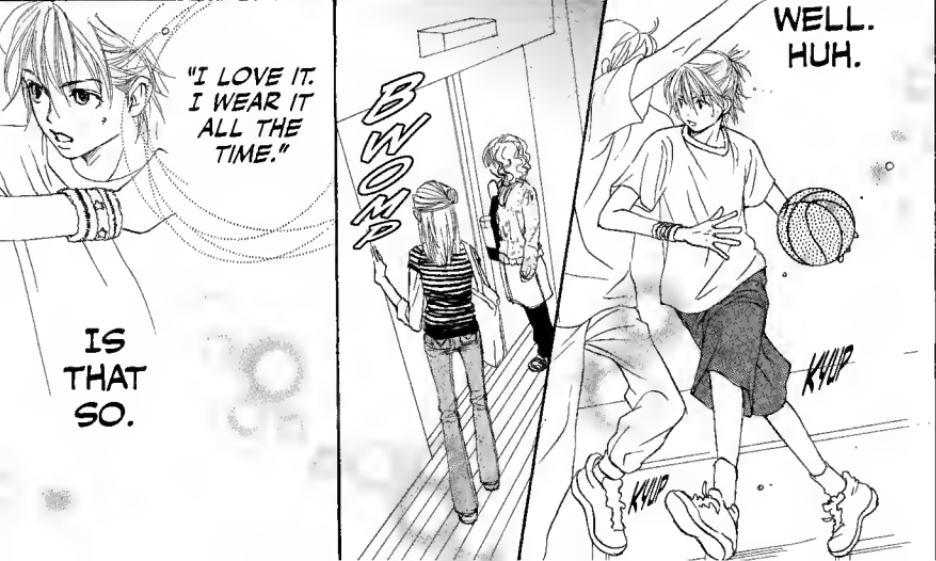
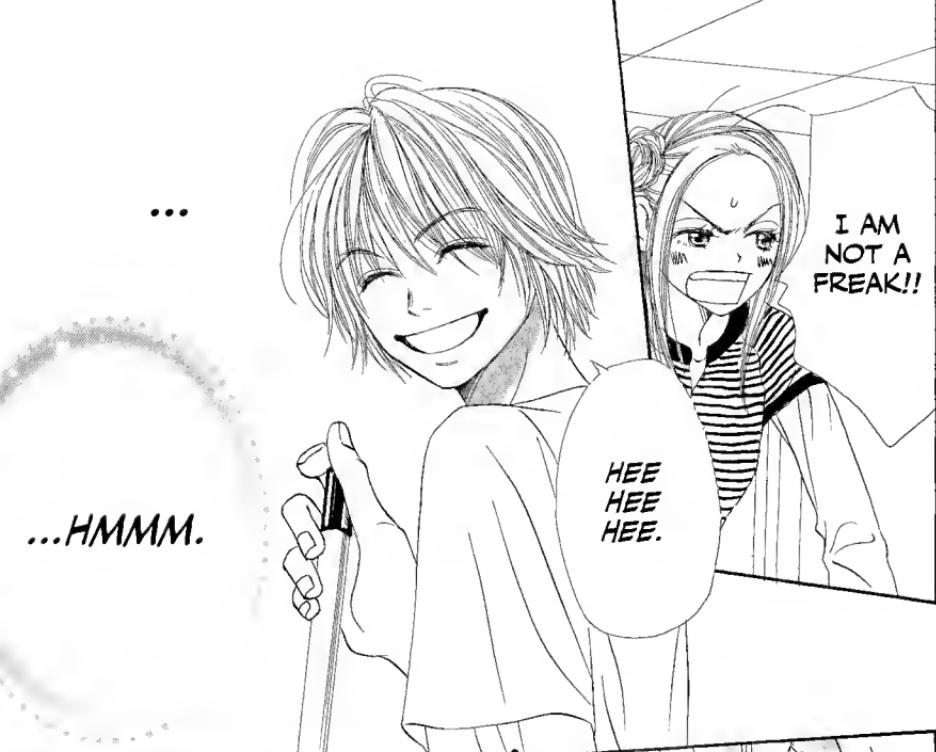


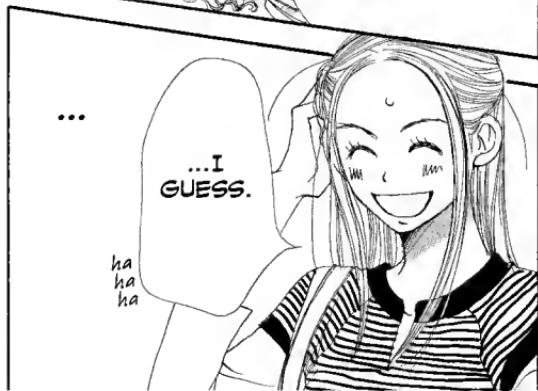
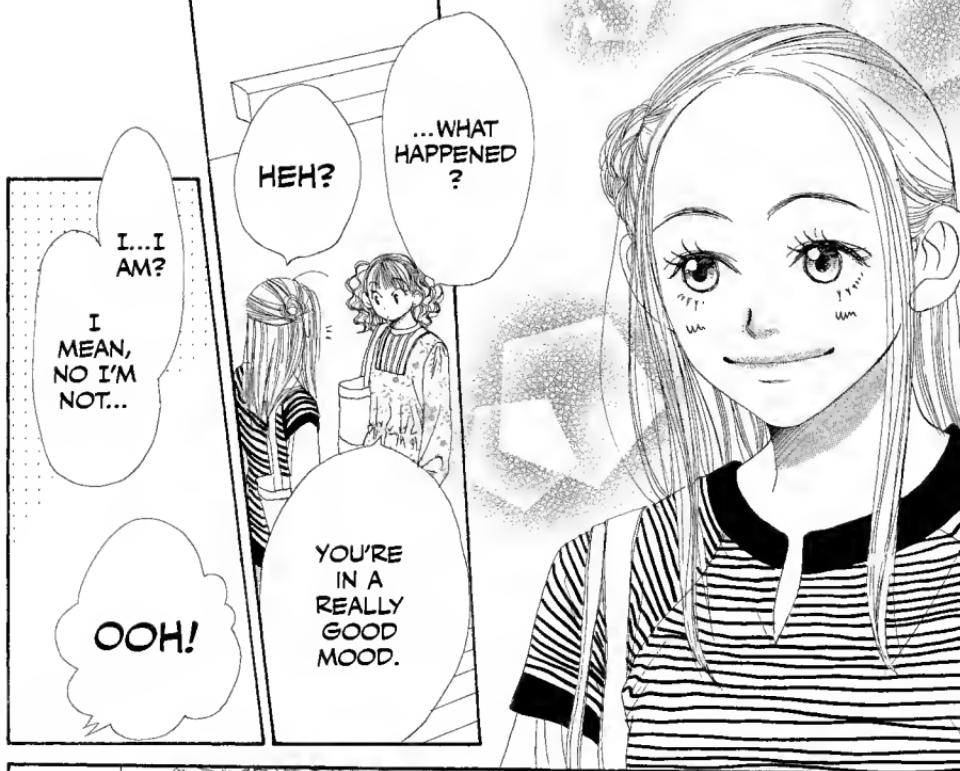
IF I GOT MOVING...  
WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE?





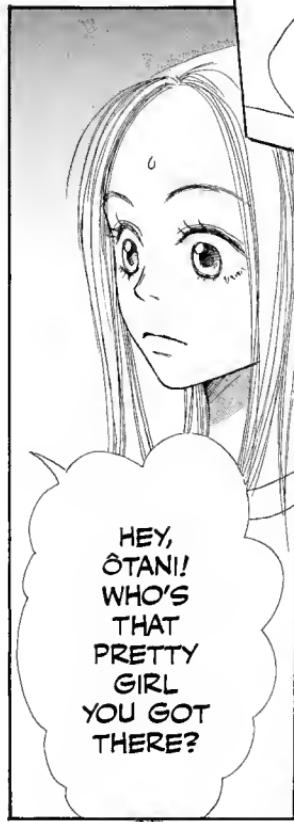


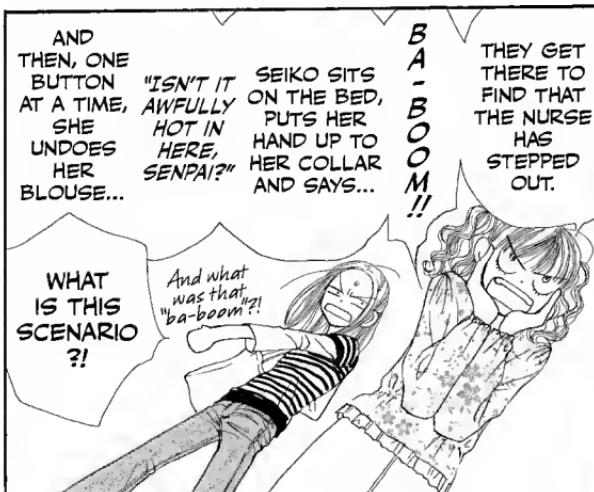


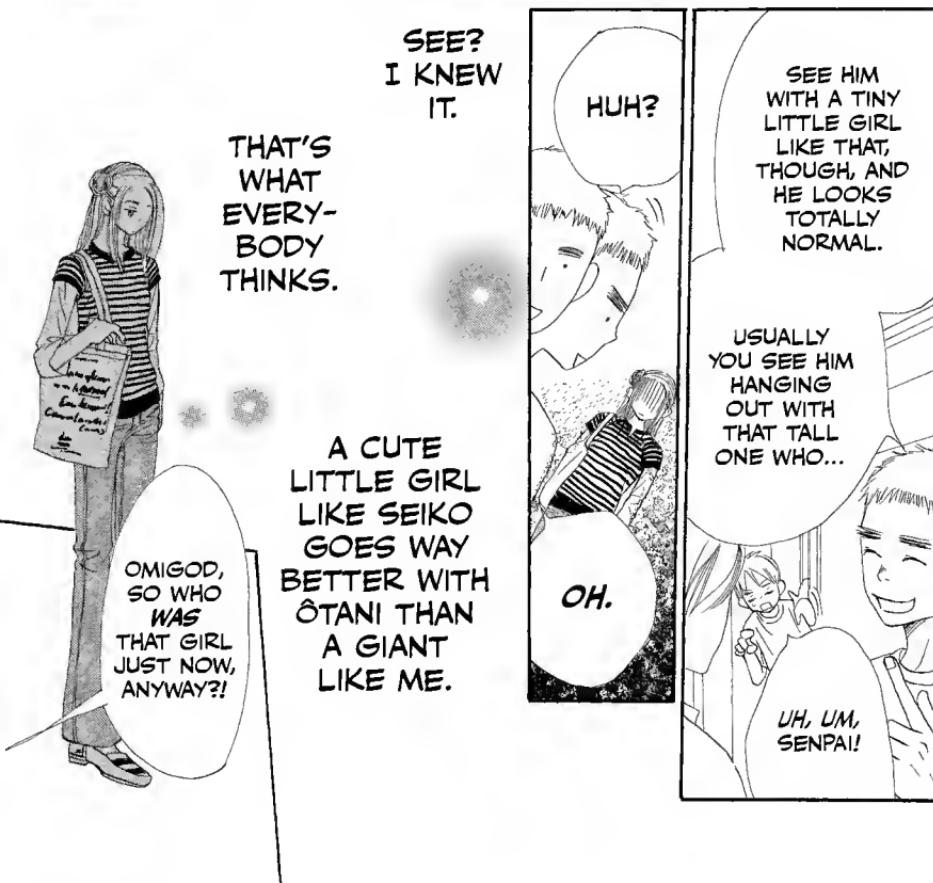
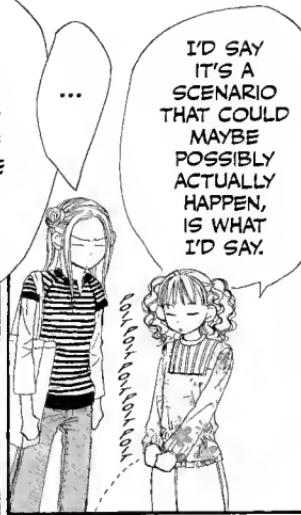












"ARE YOU GUYS GOING OUT?"

"WE SEE YOU TOGETHER WITH ÔTANI-KUN ALL THE TIME, AND WE'RE WONDERING..."

MAYBE PROBABLY.

YOU THINK HE'S GOING OUT WITH HER?

Noaaaaay.  
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO AFTER SCHOOL IF HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND?

FINE.  
WHO CARES?  
I'M JUST  
A GIANT  
FROM  
THE LAND  
OF THE  
FREAKS.

"SEE? AS IF ÔTANI-KUN WOULD BE DATING SOMEONE THAT TALL!"



IF IT'S ME AND ÔTANI, THEY SAY "AS IF."

BUT IF IT'S SEIKO AND ÔTANI, THEY SAY "MAYBE PROBABLY."

...DOESN'T  
EVEN  
COUNT  
AS A  
GIRL,  
TO HIM...

A  
GIRL  
AS  
BIG  
AS  
ME...

NURSE







WILL YOU JUST CUT IT OUT, NOBU?!

AND THEN SLOWLY, SEIKO UNDID YET ANOTHER BUTTON...

IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS BLEEDING OR ANYTHING.

HE IS TAKING A REALLY LONG TIME, THOUGH.

WAIT A SEC!

MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS IN HER CLASS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND...

WHAT IF IT WAS?

THAT GIRL WHO TOOK ÔTANI TO THE NURSE.

DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS SEIKO KOTOBUKI?!

...WHAT'S TAKING ÔTANI SO LONG?

WHAT'S  
THIS  
ABOUT.

HAD  
EVER-  
BODY  
FOOLED  
...?

HE SAID  
SHE HAD  
EVERYBODY  
FOOLED,  
AT FIRST.  
THE TEACHERS,  
THE STUDENTS,  
EVERYBODY.

BUT THE  
THING IS,  
SHE GOES  
AROUND  
CALLING  
HERSELF  
SEIKO  
KOTOBUKI  
...

SAYING  
SHE  
DOESN'T  
LIKE THE  
NAME HER  
FOLKS  
GAVE HER.  
WELL...

YOU CAN'T  
BLAME  
PEOPLE  
FOR THINK-  
ING SHE'S  
FOR REAL.

WELL,  
YOU SAW  
HOW  
PRETTY  
SHE IS.





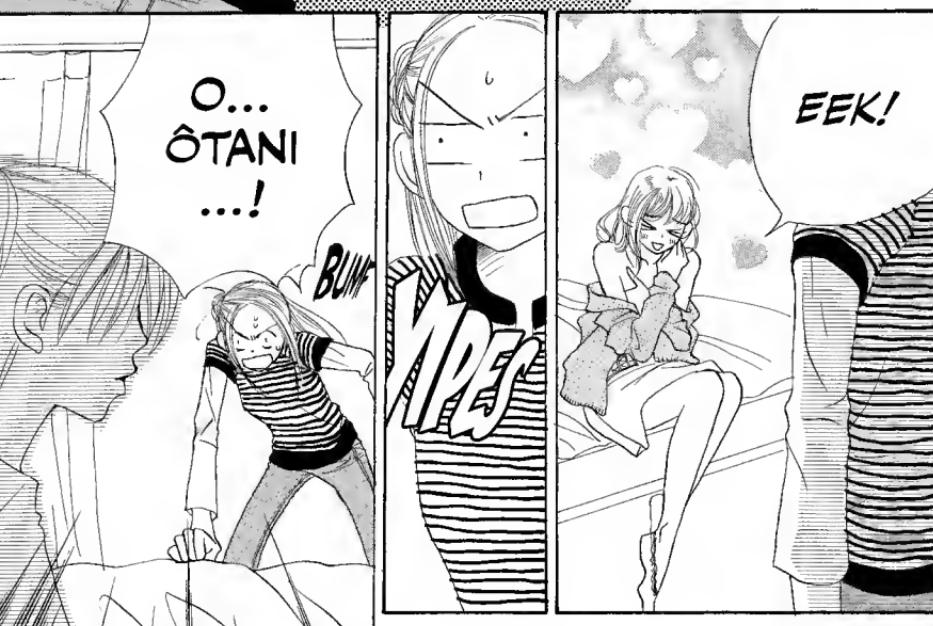
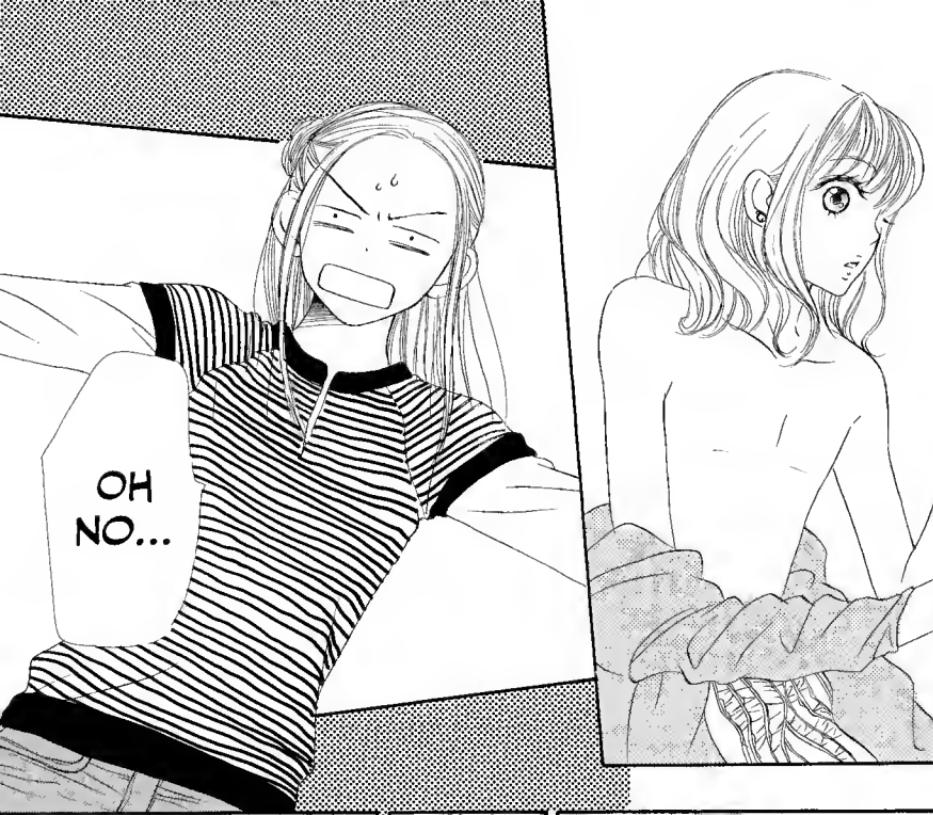
YOU  
WON'T  
BELIEVE  
THIS.

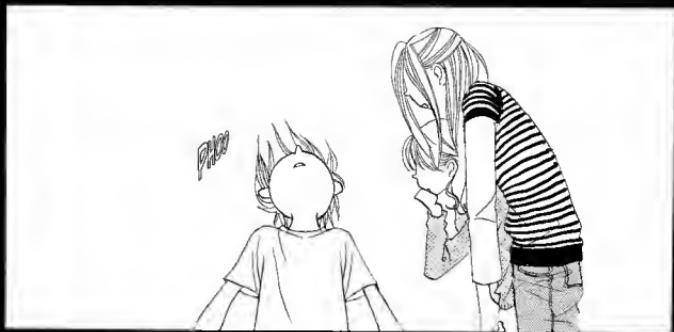
ÔTANI!!



MEANING  
SHE'S A  
HE, NOT  
A SHE.  
SHE'S A  
GUY.

IT TURNS  
OUT HER  
REAL NAME  
IS SEISHIRO,  
NOT SEIKO.





SHE'S

...

...A  
HE?

THAT  
CALLS  
FOR A  
NOSE  
HOOK!!

DOCTOR!!  
HIS HEART  
SEEMS  
TO HAVE  
STOPPED!!

SEIKO  
IS A  
GUY?!

OTAN!!





\*You're an idiot! What of it?!  
Are you messing with me?! I'm gonna tell you off!



## CHAPTER 12



PFEE!

I GUESS  
IT...HYUK!  
CH-CH-  
CHEERS  
PEOPLE  
ON OR  
SOMETHING.

KKKH  
...!

UMGGH  
...  
WH-  
WH-WHAT  
DOES THE  
CHEERING  
SECTION  
DO, ANY-  
WAY...?

WELL,  
IF YOU JOIN,  
SWEETIE,  
M-M-MAYBE  
I WILL TOO.



NOBUUUUU!  
I WAS  
TRYING  
SO HARD  
TO HOLD  
IT IN, YOU  
GUYYYYS!

Thanks  
a lot!

Hahaha-  
haha  
hee hee  
harhar-  
har

BABY  
STARTED  
LAUGHING  
FIRST,  
OKAY?!

I  
CAN'T  
TAKE  
IT!

That  
was too  
much!

NWO-  
RGH...

DID  
SOME-  
THING  
HAPPEN  
TO YOU?

BECAUSE  
YOU WERE  
IN SUCH  
A GOOD  
MOOD UNTIL  
YESTERDAY.

YOU'RE  
DEAD!!  
YOU  
GUYS  
ARE  
DEAD!!

ÔTANI  
SENPAI!  
♥





THERE HE WAS,  
RIDING HIGH  
BECAUSE  
HE WAS  
MAKING THIS  
BEAUTIFUL  
GIRL SWOON,  
EXCEPT  
THERE WAS  
A MAJOR  
PITFALL.

HEE HEE HEE HEE HA HA HA HA

WA  
AA  
AA  
AH!



THE  
BEAUTIFUL  
GIRL  
TURNED  
OUT TO  
BE A BOY.

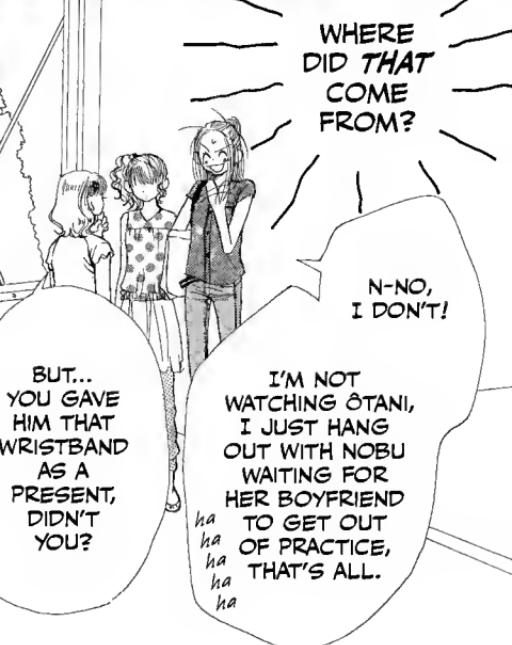
DID  
THAT  
HURT  
SO  
MUCH,  
SENPAI?!

...FFF!

TOO BAD  
FOR YOU,  
ÔTANI.







LOOK AT ME.  
WHY WOULD  
SOMEONE AS  
BIG AS ME HAVE  
A CRUSH ON  
A LITTLE GUY  
LIKE ÔTANI?  
I MEAN, THAT'S  
JUST WEIRD.

WHY?  
I DON'T  
GET WHAT  
YOUR HEIGHT  
HAS TO DO  
WITH IT.

URGH...

...C'mon  
...

WELL... ...SHE'S  
I DIDN'T  
RIGHT...  
MEAN...

YEAH,  
BUT YOU  
DON'T LOOK  
ANYTHING  
LIKE A GUY,  
SEIKO.

HUH?

YOU LIKE  
SOMEONE  
'CUZ OF WHO  
THEY ARE,  
NOT WHO YOU  
ARE. I MEAN,  
GOSH, IF BEING  
TALLER THAN  
HIM'S WEIRD,  
WHAT ABOUT  
ME?

MY GENES GOT MIXED UP AND GAVE ME THE WRONG PARTS WHEN THEY PUT ME TOGETHER, THAT'S ALL!

I HAVE NEVER...

...EVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A BOY, NOT ONCE IN MY WHOLE LIFE!

OOPS, I GUESS THAT SHOULD BE SEISHIRO, SORRY!

...OH, OKAY.

DID ÔTANI SENPAI SAY ANYTHING TO YOU ABOUT ME?

...OH, BUT...

HE'LL GET OVER IT, SEIKO!

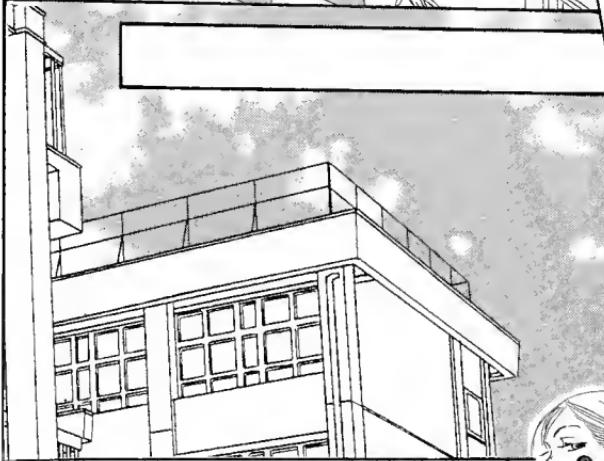
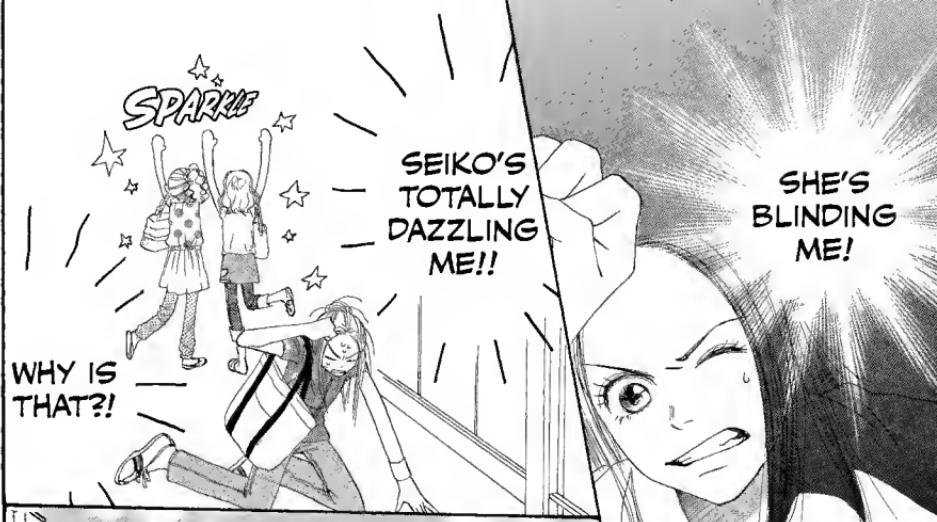
COME ON, I'M ROOTIN' FOR YA!

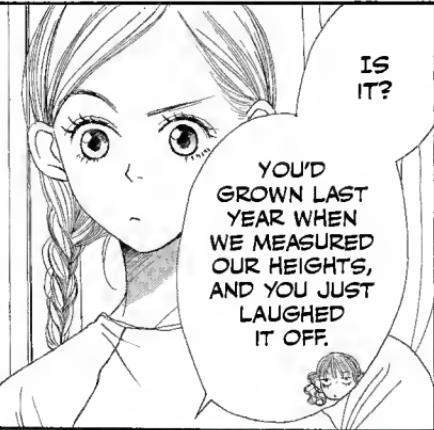
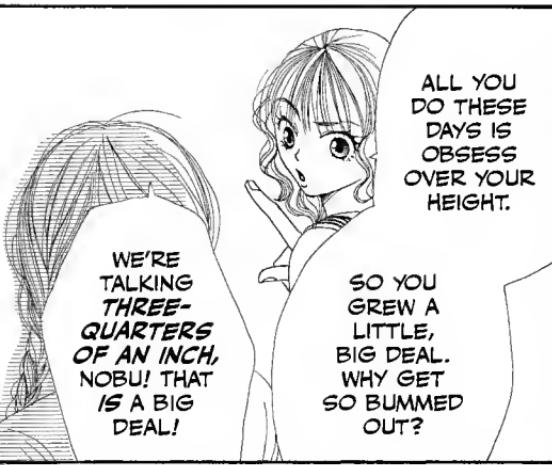
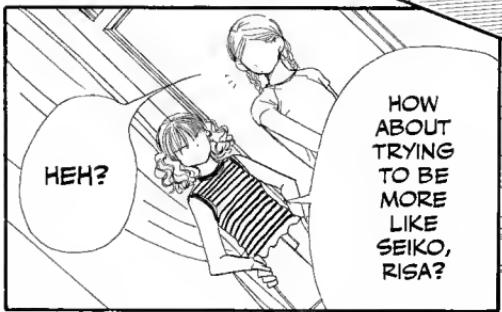
REALLY? IS THAT ALL?

OHHH, YOU MEAN WHEN HE RAN OFF? I THINK HE'S JUST CONFUSED RIGHT NOW.

I THOUGHT MAYBE HE GOT GROSSED OUT BY ME OR SOMETHING... WELL, LIKE TODAY ...







COULD IT  
MAYBE HAVE  
SOMETHING TO  
DO WITH HAVING  
A BIG CRUSH  
ON SOMEONE  
WHO'S SHORTER  
THAN YOU?

...WONDER  
WHY  
THAT IS.

I  
WASN'T?  
REALLY?

NOT THAT  
YOU'D EVER  
TELL ME  
ABOUT IT!

COMPARED  
TO NOW, I  
PROBABLY  
WASN'T.

WELL...

SOME-  
ONE  
WHO'S  
SHORTER  
THAN  
ME...

Hoo  
hoo  
hoo

...UM,  
ARE YOU  
STILL MAD  
AT ME?

HUMPH!

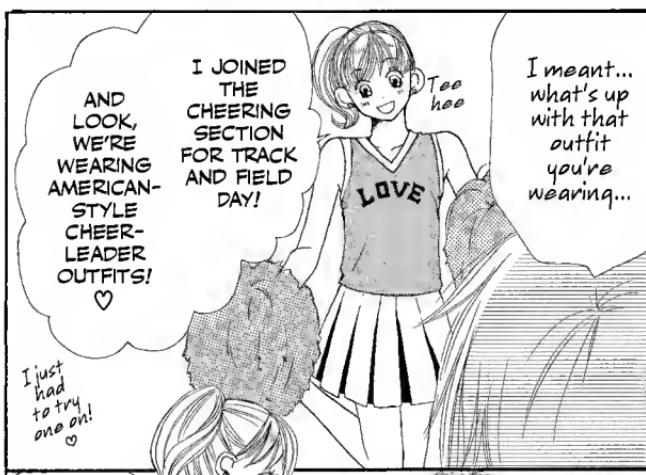
4

This is the last one of these spaces for this volume, but this time we have a special bonus section for you at the end. Some folks who just happened to be over at my house for a visit got shanghaied into it, too. Please give it a little peek...

Well, then, I sure hope to meet you again in Vol. 4! There's still a bit left of this silly volume, so stick around to the end, if you please.

Umph.

  
Aya  
Sept. 2002



SHE'S A BOY  
WITH A CRUSH  
ON A GUY  
WHO ONLY  
LIKES GIRLS.

JUST  
THINK  
OF WHAT  
SHE'S UP  
AGAINST.

LOOK  
AT HOW  
CUTE  
SHE IS.

BUT SHE  
DOESN'T  
LET THAT  
STOP  
HER.

OH  
MY  
GOD,  
IT'S  
NO  
CON-  
TEST  
SO  
FAR.  
SHE  
IS WAY  
AHEAD  
OF  
ME.

L-O-V-E  
We  
love  
Daria!

...Uh-  
huh...

COMPARED TO WHICH, I...



AND KEEP  
PRETENDING  
I DON'T  
HAVE A  
CRUSH ON  
HIM IN THE  
FIRST  
PLACE.

...GET  
HUNG UP  
ON DUMB  
THINGS  
LIKE BEING  
TALLER  
THAN HIM.

BUT THE  
TRUTH IS...

HEY,  
RISA.



...THAT MY  
FEELINGS  
FOR ÔTANI  
ARE JUST  
AS...

NO WAY.

WHAT?  
YOU  
ARE  
TOO?

YOU'RE  
JOINING  
THE  
CHEERING  
SECTION,  
TOO?

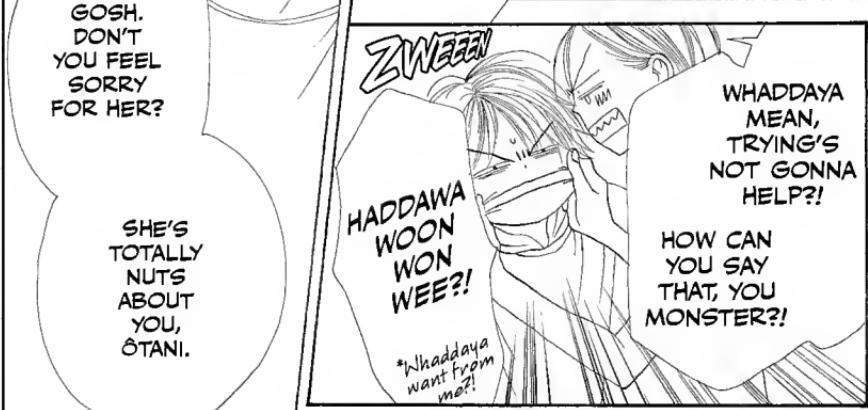
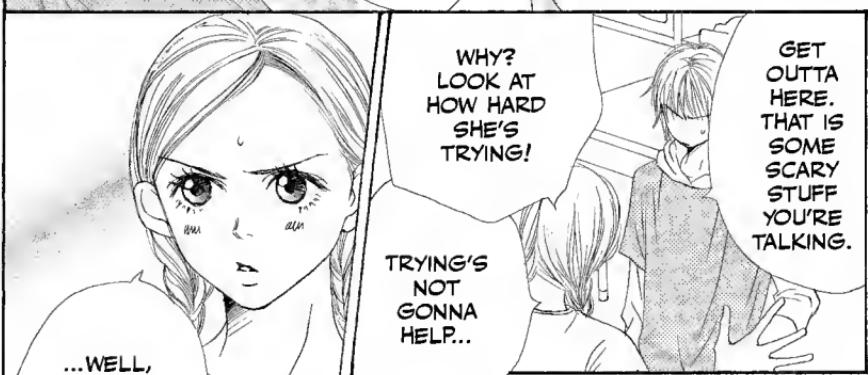
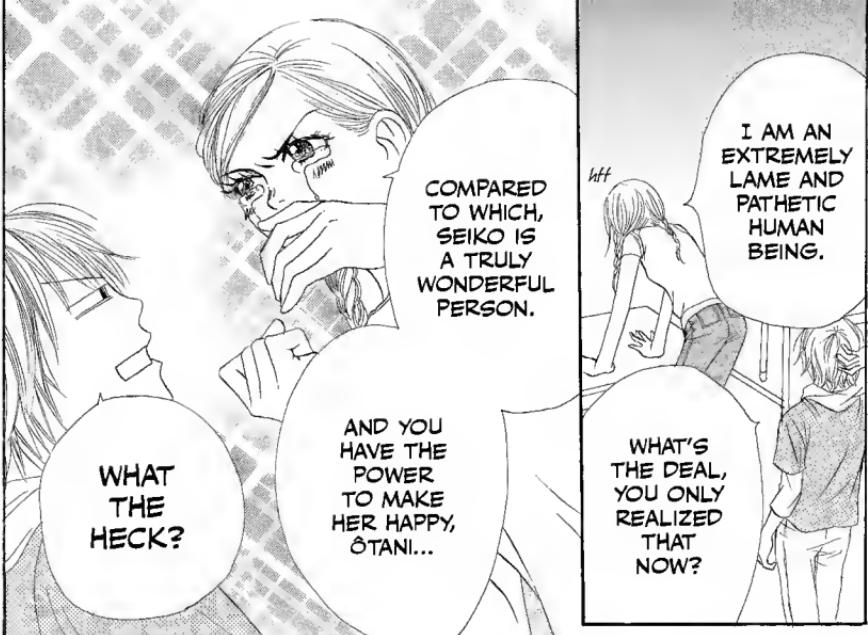
UH-  
HUH...

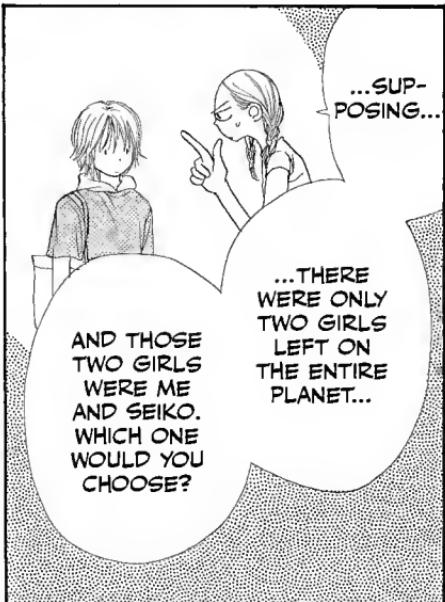
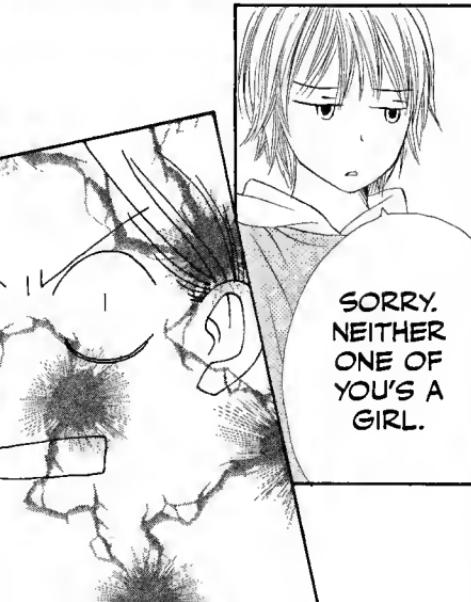
WELL, THIS  
YEAR I'M  
MAKING UP  
FOR IT!

REMEMBER HOW  
LAST YEAR, ON TOP  
OF BEING CLASS  
REPS, THEY MADE  
US BE ON THE  
PLANNING COMMITTEE  
SO WE COULDN'T  
DO ANYTHING FUN?

...HEY,  
ÔTANI.

MAN,  
YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
UGLY.





..NEITHER  
ME NOR  
SEIKO  
COUNTS AS  
GIRLFRIEND  
MATERIAL.

AS  
FAR AS  
ÔTANI'S  
CON-  
CERNED  
...

HOW CAN  
YOU SAY  
THAT, YOU  
MONSTER?!

Y  
O  
W  
W  
W  
C  
H

HUH?

DON'T  
GIVE  
UP!!

...MAKES  
ME WANT  
TO CHEER  
HER ON.

ÔTANI  
SENPAI  
JUST  
SCORED  
ANOTHER  
BASKET!

OH!

WHAT'S  
COME  
OVER  
HER?

KEEP  
TRYING!  
DON'T  
EVER  
GIVE UP!

REALLY?

I THINK  
SHE'S  
TRYING TO  
CONVINCE  
HERSELF  
OF SOME-  
THING.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?

ÔTANI  
SENPAI'S  
TOTALLY  
HUNKY!  
HE'S COOL,  
HE'S  
GORGEOUS,  
HE'S  
GREAT!

I MEAN,  
WHY NOT  
SOMEBODY  
HUNKIER?  
YOU KNOW,  
MORE BUILT  
OR SOME-  
THING.

YOU  
KNOW,  
I'VE  
BEEN  
WONDER-  
ING...

WHY'S  
IT ÔTANI  
FOR  
YOU?

HE IS  
SOOOOO  
COOL!

WHAT ARE  
SOME OF  
THE THINGS  
YOU LOVE  
MOST  
ABOUT HIM,  
SENPAI?

NGH?!

RIGHT,  
SENPAI?

...YEAH,  
I  
GUESS...

One  
more  
round.

HE'S A  
PRETTY  
GREAT  
GUY.

"IT DOESN'T  
MATTER  
IF YOU'RE  
SHORT!  
IF YOU  
WANNA PLAY  
BASKETBALL,  
WE WANT  
YOU ON  
THE TEAM!"

I  
REALLY  
LOVED...

HUH?!

IT MADE  
ME FEEL  
THAT HE  
WAS A BIG  
ENOUGH  
PERSON, IN  
HIS HEART,  
TO ACCEPT  
ME JUST  
THE WAY  
I AM.

...WHAT  
HE SAID  
AT THAT  
CLUBS-  
AND-TEAMS  
EVENT IN  
THE GYM  
THAT DAY.

I,  
WELL,  
GEE...







HE'S SUCH A GREAT GUY, I HARDLY EVEN NOTICE HIS HEIGHT.

AND, JUST LIKE SEIKO...



...I  
REALLY...  
WELL...

UHH...

MUMBLE  
MUMBLE  
MUMBLE...

...HEY,  
SEIKO?



WHO CARES ABOUT...

BUT  
C'MON,  
I'M SIX  
INCHES  
TALLER THAN  
HIM, YOU  
KNOW?  
DON'T WE  
LOOK  
FUNNY?

I THINK  
YOU'D  
MAKE  
A GOOD  
COUPLE,  
WHY?

TAP  
TAP

UM, HEY,  
EXCUSE  
ME?

HM?

WHAT DO  
YOU THINK  
ABOUT  
ME AND  
ÔTANI?

Ôtani,  
senpai's  
taking  
a long  
time.

YES?

ARE YOU  
REALLY  
A GUY?

OH.  
SO  
YOU  
ARE.

YES.

UMMM-  
CAN I  
ASK YOU A  
QUESTION?

YES?



YOU KNOW HOW THE OTHER DAY YOU SAID YOU MIGHT BE ÔTANI-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND SOON?

OH GOD, IT'S THEM AGAIN...

Who are they, anyway....



So... ya!



...SURE.



IT'S OKAY.  
IT DOESN'T  
BOther  
ME AT ALL.  
REALLY.

SENPAI.  
SENPAI!

THAT'S  
A REAL  
RUDE THING  
TO SAY TO  
SOMEONE,  
YOU KNOW  
THAT?!



I  
blow  
it!

URGH  
YOU  
ARE?!

BUT...

OH...  
WELL,  
I DON'T  
REALLY...  
THINK...

WELL,  
IT BOthers  
ME! THEY  
SAID THE  
SAME THING  
TO ME, TOO,  
BEFORE!

I MEAN,  
DON'T  
YOU THINK  
THAT'S  
REALLY  
RUDE?  
I THINK IT'S  
REALLY  
RUDE!

SEIKO...



WHEN I  
GO OVER  
TO HANG OUT  
WITH HIM,  
HE DOESN'T  
SMILE AT  
ME ANYMORE  
THE WAY HE  
USED TO...

I  
GUESS  
...

I GUESS  
IT IS REALLY  
WEIRD FOR  
SOMEBODY  
LIKE ME TO  
TELL PEOPLE  
I HAVE A BIG  
CRUSH ON  
ÔTANI SENPAI.

Uh...  
Well...

B-  
BUT...

N-NO,  
IT ISN'T!  
IT ISN'T,  
AT ALL!

AND HE  
DOESN'T  
LIKE ME  
ANYMORE...

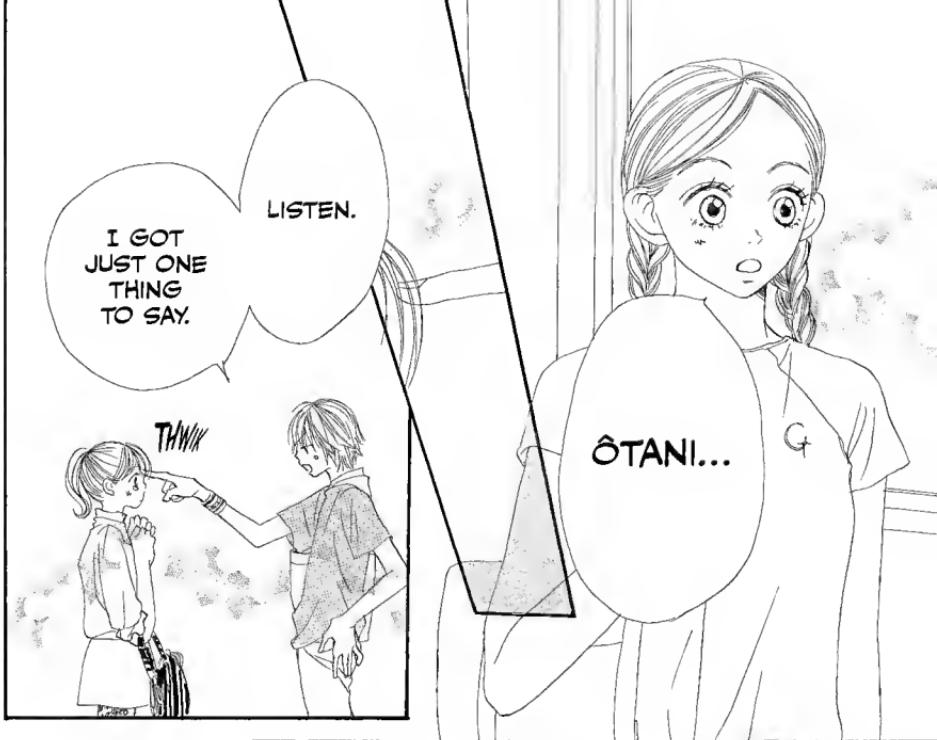
I BET  
IT'S CUZ  
HE FEELS  
GROSSED  
OUT BY  
ME...

SEIKO...

HE USED  
TO SMILE  
AT ME  
A LOT  
MORE  
BEFORE  
...

OH, NO...







SURE,  
WHAT-  
EVER,  
NOW  
GET OFF OF ME!

CAN  
I KEEP  
COMING  
OVER  
TO YOUR  
CLASSROOM  
TO HANG  
OUT?!

HEY,  
I JUST  
TOLD  
YOU,  
STOP  
DOING  
THAT!

YOU'RE  
THE  
BEST,  
ÔTANI  
SENPAI!!

WHAAT  
?!  
I'LL  
COME  
EVERY  
DAY, IN  
THAT  
CHEER-  
LEADER'S  
OUTFIT,  
OKAY?!

No  
you  
can-  
not!!

Senpai,  
I'm  
dying  
to kiss  
you...  
can I?

Uh-oh,  
I think  
I just  
heard  
something!!

Bo-  
boom





...ABOUT  
FEELING  
SORRY  
FOR  
SEIKO  
AND  
STUFF...

I RACKED  
MY BRAINS  
TO COME UP  
WITH THAT,  
IF YOU WANNA  
KNOW. 'CUZ  
YOU MADE A  
BIG DEAL...

SO-  
NOW  
WE  
KNOW.

Like,  
a  
fetish.

YOU  
HAVE A  
THING FOR  
CHEER-  
LEADER  
OUTFITS,  
DO YOU?

SHUT  
UP,  
WILL  
YA?

YEAH.  
GIRLS GO  
AMERICAN  
STYLE AND  
GUYS GO  
JAPANESE  
STYLE,  
RIGHT?

BEING  
IN THE  
CHEERING  
SECTION'S  
GONNA  
BE FUN.

GOOD  
BOY.

HEH  
HEH

WELL,  
WATCH OUT,  
CUZ I LOOK  
PRETTY DARN  
HOT IN THOSE  
UNIFORMS.

I AM  
NOT  
YOUR  
DOG!!

WATCH IT,  
YOU'RE  
PISSING  
ME OFF!!

UH-  
HUUH.  
SURE.

SMIRK \*

4



TRACK AND FIELD DAY

WHAT  
?!

HERE,  
THIS IS  
YOURS,  
ÔTANI.

Seibos  
a guy,  
remain-  
ber?

YUP.  
OUR SCHOOL  
HAS GUYS IN  
CHEERLEADER  
OUTFITS  
AND GIRLS IN  
THE BLACK  
UNIFORMS.

WHAAAT?!

IS THAT  
FOR  
REAL?!







LATER!  
YOU ARE  
NOT  
MAKING  
ME WEAR  
THAT  
OUTFIT!



WHAT'RE  
YOU  
DOING?!  
LEGOO  
OF ME!  
HEY!!

...HE'S  
SO TINY  
HE FITS  
RIGHT  
INSIDE MY  
ARMS...

I THINK IT'S  
ABOUT TIME I  
WAS A LITTLE  
MORE HONEST  
WITH MYSELF.

GOTCHA!

WARGH!

HEY...!  
WHAT'RE  
YOU...!

WOOOSH

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S SMALL  
ENOUGH TO FIT INSIDE MY ARMS.

PUT ME  
DOWN!!

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A LOT  
SHORTER THAN I AM.

I LOVE THIS GUY.

I REALLY LOVE  
THIS GUY.





# BETSULA

# love★com

COVER ART:  
AYA NAKAHARA  
SPECIAL  
PRICE: ¥0

SUPER  
SILLY!

DU<sup>M</sup>B BUT POPULAR SERIES!

"24 HOURS WITH THE LCPD"  
BY AYA NAKAHARA

Black-and-White,  
3 Pages!★

"WHAT OSAKA  
MEANS TO ME...?"

BY CHIYO MORINAGA

"EXCITING OSAKA  
TRAVEL DIARY"

BY RYO IKUEMI

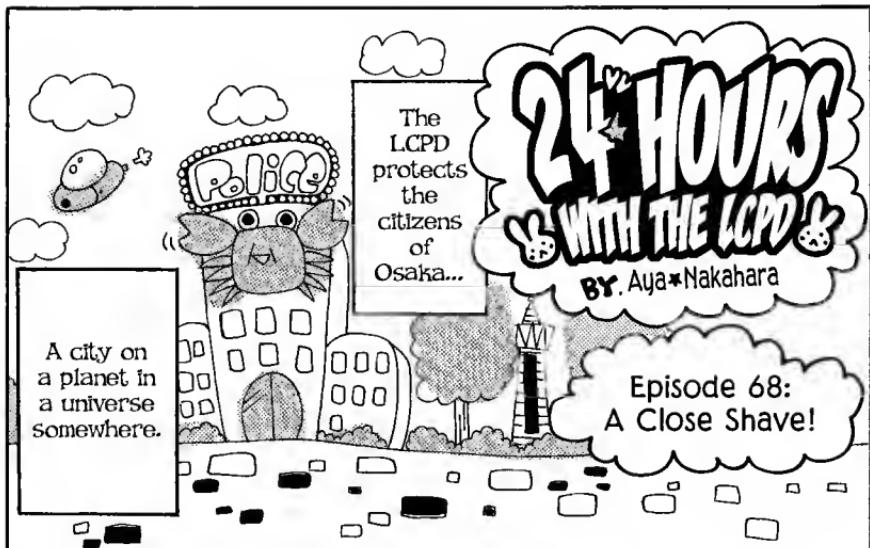
SPECIAL  
FEATURE:

OSAKA

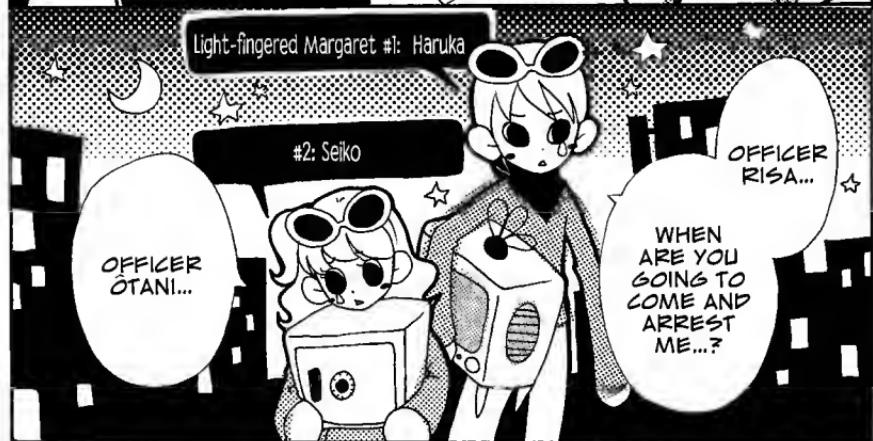
BONUS PAGE!  
EDITOR:  
NAKAHARA'S  
EMPTY  
ROOM!

KILL TIME  
IN THE  
LONG  
EVENING  
HOURS  
WITH  
BETSULUV!

2002  
11  
NOVEMBER









• born in OSAKA

## THE EDITOR'S EMPTY ROOM

Hello. This is Aya Nakahara, editor-in-chief of *Bessatsu Love & Com*. Boy, was I in trouble... lots of empty pages to fill ha ha ha ha. But luckily for me, some fabulous visitors came by my house... so I took them captive! *Love & Com* is... well... a manga where all the characters talk for no good reason in a heavy Osaka dialect, so I asked them to write about Osaka. Yes I did. I was born and raised in Osaka, so I use the Osaka dialect when I talk. There are variations, though, depending on your neighborhood and age... the Osaka dialect I use in *Love & Com* is kinda heavy and cliched, sorta, because a) I live smack in the middle of the city, and b) I've always loved stand-up comedy and used to tape comedy acts (mostly Downtown) to listen to on my way to and from school every day, yes I was an odd child... but anyway.



When you do a manga in Osaka dialect it's always introduced as "An Osaka dialect love comedy!" so how come if someone does a manga in Hokkaido dialect it's never introduced as "A Hokkaido dialect love story!"? How come? Be that as it may, I love Osaka. I sure am glad I was born in this here place.

Enough already!

Go to the next page, hurry!  
At sonic speed!



GUEST  
from  
Iwamizawa

Welcome to OSAKA

Chiyo Morinaga



# WHAT OSAKA MEANS TO ME...?

munch

Umm...let's see...what did I do in

Osaka...? Wait, is it okay for this to be all writing and no pictures? I guess so. So, it's September 2002 and I'm writing this on my third visit to Osaka. Well, I'm being made to write it. So anyway, the first time I came Aya helped me with my manga. I got the table dirty. I noticed that Osaka mosquitoes are huge. They were so huge I started to think the mosquitoes I'd known till then weren't even mosquitoes at all. Scary. Okay, who cares about mosquitoes...? Oh, and the places that Aya took me to that time for Osaka delicacies okonomiyaki and udon, saying how good they were, well I went back to Hokkaido and found the same places there. Like, these were supposed to be special only-in-Osaka restaurants? My second visit I just spent the whole time helping Aya out with her manga... Gotta admit I was kinda shocked by the way she just slapped on whatever screen tone happened to be lying around, and then smiled and said, "all done!" That's right, everybody, Nakahara Sensei just uses any old screen tone.

That's a lie. Aya's dog is named Kozaru-san ("little monkey") and is kinda lotharioic but fluffy. He wears a scarf around his neck. Very stylish. This time, on my third visit, I finally made it to Universal Studios Japan. I had to go on "Back to the Future" by myself because both Aya and Ikuomi Sensei said they'd get sick. (Waited in line for 10 minutes) It was fun! So we had a great time and came home and when we got inside it smelled like poop... cuz as it turned out Ikuomi Sensei had stepped in some doggy-doo. So had I, a little. Poop, yuck... very stinky... Aya loves hard-boiled eggs. Osaka's so hot you could die. Hokkaido gets so much snow you could die. We have a snow festival, even. Oh, we went to Tsutenkaku tower in Osaka. We went at night, ran up to the top, took a picture

scary. Aya had her clothes on

back-to-  
front

It's not gonna fit... Oh, one more thing. Aya gets Himsier and Himsier every time I see her. Next time I'm going to give her some of my bulk. I bought contacts lately so here I tried drawing myself without glasses.

munch  
munch



Sorry about the okonomiyaki and udon places. hee hee. As for screen tone, I do not just use "whatever's lying around." You gotta use instinct with these things, okay? If you paste, then remove, paste then remove again like Chiyo, the whole day is over! Oh, and let me just say that even though Chiyo's two years older than me, she got seriously miffed because I wouldn't go on "Back to the Future" with her, then, grew up, and I'm actually. Okaaaay, mosquitoes are so big? Hope they don't keep you from coming for another visit!

GUEST  
from  
Sapporo

# Welcome to OSAKA

Ryo Ikuemi



blaagh hic!

(Aya is not  
a big  
drinker.)



We went  
out for  
drinks.

Don't you smell  
poop? Did you  
guys put on Eau  
de Poop or  
something?

As if.  
Gaggle. Get  
out the air  
freshener!



When we  
reached the  
Nakahara  
home, Aya's  
sis said:

Aya's  
sister  
came to  
get us and  
we went  
home  
feeling  
pretty  
good.

My jeans  
looked kinda  
dirty, right  
at the very  
bottom.  
Well, they are  
kinda long  
on me...



Hm?  
Jumped  
into the  
shower  
and got  
nice and  
clean.  
Ahh!

Should  
I maybe...  
check the  
soles of my  
shoes?



Wait...

...

I stepped  
in dog poop  
in Osaka!



H  
Y  
A



Yeah,  
it sure is.

Boy, good thing  
I brought that  
parasol! Osaka  
is really hot!



USJ

Jurassic Park

Glare

It's hot!  
Back to  
the  
future



We went bowling.



I play  
so much  
better  
usually...

Klaaank

Klak

Kork

Both  
pretty  
hopeless.

But it's all  
the same.

...

Osaka Travel Diary



Chiyo  
me

The Plan

First go to Kobe...  
Then to "Rush Ball 2002"...

where we meet up  
with Aya...

Spend the night  
at Aya's house...  
Go to USJ the  
next day...  
heh, heh, heh

...

GLARE

RUSH BALL 2002

This heat... what is this... my god, it's hot...  
and so muggy, too... we're gonna die...  
argh, this heat... and all these people...  
it's so hot... and crowded...  
hahaah...



Ikuemi Poop Sensei... oops, Ikuemi Sensei... Rush Ball was fun, USJ and bowling were a lot of fun too, but it all ended on a stinky poopy note so everything that came before that got kinda wiped out of my memory. The sight of you in the doorway of my house, washing your doo-doo shoe at 2:00 a.m., was... pffff! But let's remember, this sort of thing doesn't happen to us every day. That's right, you were lucky! And please do come to Osaka to step in poop again! oops to visit me again!... pfft "I'll step in dog" by the way is a pun on I want to make the poop... No, I don't put it on people.



**Special Thanks**

*Ryo Ikuemi*

*Chiyo Morinaga*

*Rumiko Sawada*

*Nana Ikebe*

*Yuko Idomoto*

*Hikari Katayama*

*Yoshiyuki Yamamoto*

*Keisuke Araki*

*Nakahara Family*

*Betsuma Family*

*and You.*

# glossary

## **Page 34, panel 3: Yakuza**

Member of Japonese organized crime. Yakuza organizations historically arose from various feudal sources, as well as the peddlers (*tekiya*) and gamblers (*bakuto*) of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. *Gurentai* are the most modern addition to the yakuza world, and they are like Western street gongs.

## **Page 65, panel 5: Senpai**

A term of respect for someone with seniority in an organization, such as clubs, schools, and offices.

## **Page 91, sidebar: Ulfuls:**

A rock band from Osaka that debuted in the early 1990s. They are Tortoise Matsumoto as lead singer, Keisuke Ulful on guitar, John B. Chopper on bass, and Sonkon Jr. on drums. <http://www.ulfuls.com/>

## **Page 91, sidebar: Rush Ball**

Rush Ball is an outdoor music festival in Osaka that started in 1999 with just seven bands. By 2006, it had expanded into three concerts sharing the Rush Ball name, and over 30 artists.

## **Page 91, sidebar: Tamio Okuda**

A J-pop star who debuted in 1988 as a member of the band Unicorn. He moved on to a solo career in 1992 when the band broke up, and has recently rejoined The Bond Has No Name, which was inactive for 15 years.

# glossary

## **Page 91, sidebar: Bump of Chicken**

A J-rock band formed by childhood friends Mataa Fujiwara (lead singer), Hiraaki Masukawa (guitar), Yashifumi Ncai (bass), and Hideki Masu (drums). They won their first music competition at age 17 in 1996 and released their first album in 1999.

<http://www.bumpofchicken.com/>

## **Page 91, sidebar: Tokyo Ska Paradise**

Ten-piece orchestra from Tokyo's underground scene started in 1985 by Asa-Chang. In its more than 20 years of performing, "Skapara" has produced 18 albums and shuffled seven members.

<http://www.tokyaska.net/index.html>

## **Page 93, panel 4: Ôtani's big nose**

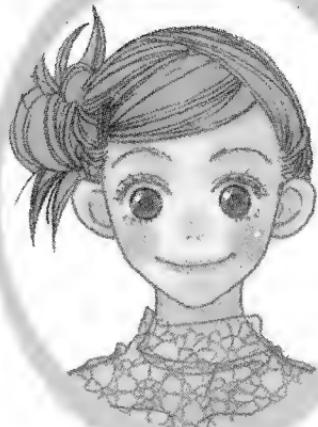
In Japanese, someone who's very boastful or vain is described as being a Tengu. A Tengu is a mountain spirit who has wings and a long nose.

## **Page 125, panel 2: Nose Hook**

Used in the very Japanese nose bandage, where a hook on a leather strap pulls the nostrils up and open to give a pig-like appearance.

## **Page 160, panel 5: Japanese-style cheerleading**

Japanese cheerleader squads are traditionally male. They wear *gakuran*, black uniforms with gold buttons, and wave Japanese fans around in both hands while shouting and squatting sumo-style.



Err...once again we're having *Love★Com* goads pruduced ta give away ta readers, and this time they are the little buttans that I sneaked onto Risa's cap on the cover of this volume. The Umibôzu badge, with the character *umi* [sea], was just the kanji an a white background at first, but with the help of the designer who always helps me out, it's turned into a really cool button. These buttans haven't appeared in the story so far, but I did work them into the manga itself, as you'll see in future volumes! (hee hee hee)

**Aya Nakahara** won the 2003 Shagakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyoubi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

# LOVE★COM VOL 3

The Shaja Beat Manga Edition



**STORY AND ART BY**  
**AYA NAKAHARA**

**Translation & English Adaptation**/Paakie Ralf

**Touch-up Art & Lettering**/Gia Cam Luc

**Cover Design**/Amy Martin

**Interior Design**/Yuki Ameda

**Editor**/Pancha Diaz

**Editor in Chief, Books**/Alvin Lu

**Editor in Chief, Magazines**/Marc Weidenbaum

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#### PARENTAL ADVISORY

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